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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS 6

As of July 3, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



Longest Running

Rhode Island town boasts of having America's longest-running July 4th festival.

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Imelda B-Day

Former First Lady Imelda Marcos turned 80, claiming to be nearly broke but feeling vindicated.

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\$1B casino among largest in region

Billionaire Stanley Ho of Macau among partners

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Neo Gold Wings Paradise's estimated \$1 billion casino hotel and resort project on Tinian broke ground yesterday, with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, NGP chair Hyun Myung and other dignitaries touting it as among the largest attractions in the region.

Among the investment partners is billionaire Stanley Ho, who controls 19 of Macau's casinos, and operates ferry and helicopter services that transport gamers from Hong Kong.

Ho sent representatives to Neo Gold Wings' groundbreaking yesterday afternoon, officials said.

Fitial, in a prepared speech, said de-

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Ex-judge secretly transferred \$1.37M to Arriola—lawyer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former estate administrator Luis Kaipat Pelisamen has accused former judge Timothy H. Bellas of secretly setting up a bank account as his then counsel, then improperly transferring \$1.37 million of the estate's account to



Bellas

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Kilili cautions vs 'false' promotion of NMI in Korea

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



Sablan

Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan has warned against the "false" promotion of the CNMI in Korea, saying an investor status in the CNMI will not automatically grant any foreign businessman the same status

See KILILI on Page 4



WELCOME TO SAIPAN

Sailors work on the surface of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Charlotte* shortly after its arrival at the Port of Saipan in Lower Base yesterday. The submarine, with 150 officers and crew onboard, will be here until Tuesday morning for rest and recreation. USS *Charlotte* sailors will also participate in today's Liberation Day parade along Beach Road in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Muña is 2009 Liberation Day Queen

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Sixteen-year-old Isabel Castro Muña was crowned Miss Liberation Queen 2009 Thursday night and she will be leading her royal court in today's Liberation Day parade, where thousands of spectators and guests are expected to participate.

The junior student of Kagman High School

The 2008 and 2009 Liberation Day Queens and their royal court princess gather for a souvenir photo during Thursday's coronation night at the festival ground.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

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Volunteers needed for cleanup after parade. PAGE 2

said her victory fulfills her dream to become an ambassador for teens in the Commonwealth.

"I am very happy that I made it! It's a dream come true. I really worked hard for it!" she told *Saipan Tribune* after the announcement of winners.

'Parade and guest speakers'

Today's Liberation Day festivities will be high-

See MUÑA on Page 4



Local

Volunteers needed for cleanup after parade

Beautify CNMI is looking for volunteers who want to help clean up after today's Liberation Day parade.

In a statement issued yesterday, Beautify CNMI's Angelo

Villagomez said the group has signed up to be the last group in the parade so it could clean up after the festivities.

"We'll bring our pickup trucks and trailers and collect people's

trash along the route," he said. "If you would like to volunteer, just show up at National Office Supply today at 2pm."

He said he would provide the supplies needed for the

cleanup. Those who would like to donate the use of their truck (with a driver) for the cleanup are urged to give Villagomez a call at 285-6462.

"I'll have a t-shirt for [volun-

teers]. I'll have all the supplies you'll need. You just have to follow along with us at the end of the parade," he said.

Meantime, the monthly clean-

up of Garapan is scheduled on Sunday. Those who would like to volunteer may go to the American Memorial Park parking lot at 8am. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Myers: Why deport foreign workers with valid claims?

Lawyer Robert Myers is questioning why the Department of Labor appears bent on repatriating and deporting alien workers who have valid Labor claims under the law.

"Why is it that the moratorium will be [or has already been] lifted while the Department of Labor strives for a policy of repatriation or deportation, or both?"

Myers told *Saipan Tribune*.

Myers speculated that it could be that promises were made to provide new foreign investors with as much cheap labor as possible (and tax breaks as well).

"Who knows? What is known is that Labor is, and consistently has, gone out of their way to not do its mandate, no matter what the law says, old or new,"

the lawyer said.

Myers is counsel for the 127 alien workers who filed a lawsuit against Labor and some of its key officials over the bonding issue.

With respect to Labor's new effort to set up collections and enforcements of administrative awards, the lawyer said what is clear is that there will

be more legal battles to stop Labor "from using a process that violates either the old law or the new law."

"Labor appears not to care that it will surely use more and more valuable resources to do everything it can to avoid doing what the Labor law says it must do," he said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Global economy impact high on agenda for Pacific health leaders

MADANG, Papua New Guinea—The impact on nutrition and the health of reduced household incomes in the global economic downturn is among the important issues to be tackled by Pacific Island health ministers at a meeting in Madang, Papua New Guinea, from July 7 to 9.

The eighth biennial Meeting of Ministers of Health for Pacific Island Countries aims to develop strategic plans of action to control and prevent escalating diseases in the region and is in line with continuing efforts to improve people's health in island nations.

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DCCA agrees to fund PSS after-school programs

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Although the childcare program has already been transferred to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, public schools in the Commonwealth would still receive a portion of the grant that funds the program.

DCCA made this commitment in a memorandum of agreement it signed with the Public School System on Thursday.

Acting DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao said yesterday the memorandum requires DCCA to pay PSS \$250,000 every program year for its after-school programs. PSS, he said, will bill the agency for its after-school programs, which would remain funded by the childcare development fund.

The agreement was endorsed by Faisao, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, CCDF program director Maribel Loste, and PSS federal program officer Tim Thornburgh.

PSS, which formerly handled the CCDF, will continue to conduct the after-school programs, in accordance with terms and conditions of the CCDF block grant.

"The purpose is to avail funding to support and expand after-school programs for school-age children ranging from age 6-13.

Furthermore, the MOA is legally designed to support the after-school programs that are implemented at different school sites in the CNMI," Faisao told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial transferred the operation of the childcare program to DCCA in 2007. The program receives \$5.1 million from the federal government, split into three years. This means the CNMI gets \$1.7 million every year. PSS has managed the CCDF since 1992. It served 516 kids and 242 families in 2007.

Because DCCA will fund PSS' after-school programs, Faisao said the agency may coordinate or collaborate with public schools on possible trainings focused on best practices for after-school program.

In return, PSS will make available to qualified students programs that are developmentally and culturally appropriate, he said.

Based on the agreement, PSS is also required to submit an annual report to the department and the state grantee that will include the total number of kids provided services for the year, different types of activities made available to kids, and summaries of evaluations conducted, and assessment on children learning capabilities.

CUC highlights 30-day period to dispute billing

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers who have concerns about their billings should bring up the matter with the agency within 30 days before the disconnection date.

In a statement issued yesterday, CUC executive director Tony Muña said customers who want to dispute their billing statements should visit the Customer Service Office and bring the matter to the attention of its customer service representatives.

"[CUC] makes every effort to ensure your utility billings are accurate. We encourage you to review your monthly bill as you receive them" to ensure accuracy, he said. "Please know that you continue to be responsible for any amounts on your utility billings that are

not in question."

He also clarified that CUC cashiers are not authorized to address any customer billing concerns as these issues could only be addressed with a CUC customer service representative.

"From the date of your billing, you have 30 days to address any billing concerns before disconnection date. We encourage you not to wait until after you have been disconnected to bring your billing concerns to the attentions of your CUC customer service representative. We greatly encourage you take advantage of the 30-day period. Your CUC customer service representative can also bring to my attention matters that are beyond their authority to address," Muña said. (*Saipan Tribune*)

DCCA is now implementing a new policy on childcare program as the program's implementing agency. The administrative rules it set provide guidance for determining eligibility requirements, benefit amounts, and method of determining childcare payments for the program, in compliance with the CCDF block grant.

DCCA said the program's priorities are families with very low income, low-income families with special needs kids, and homeless families with children.

The new guidelines indicate that the agency may suspend or terminate benefits or reduce it if there is no sufficient funds to sustain the program and it has the discretion if it wants to limit the number of kids it serves.

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MUÑA

From Page 1

lighted by a traditional parade that will start at 2pm from the National Office Supply to the festival ground in Garapan.

The event will be keynoted by Capt. Alan Moore, Navy chief of staff in the Marianas, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Two other notable highlights of the event—the float competition and fireworks display—were shelved this year as a result of the depressed economy.

Inspiration

KILILI

From Page 1

in the United States.

“That’s blatantly false. I know of a company that’s promoting that in Korea. It’s false, it’s a scam, and it needs to be stopped now,” Sablan said, adding that his statement should serve as warning to anybody doing such false promotion.

He said the identity of the company is being withheld at this time, and would expect an investigation if the activity is

Muña, the daughter of Lynette Y. Castro and Thomas S. Muña, said it was her grandparents who influenced her to participate in the competition.

“They inspired me to join...and helped me prepare myself since last year,” she said, dedicating her crown to grandparents Celina Kaipat, Antonio Kaipat, Juana Muña, and Daniel Muña.

Muña bested two other candidates by selling about 8,000 tickets for the festival competition.

She wants to become a teacher someday but also dreams of joining the U.S. military.

When asked what inspired her

not stopped.

Sablan also lauded Commerce Secretary Michael Ada for taking the lead in putting the licensing, processing and approval of foreign investors and students under the Department of Commerce. The Division of Immigration retains the responsibility for issuing the permits. When federalization sets in, these functions will be transferred to federal authorities.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has yet to issue the regulations governing foreign investors and foreign students, as well as for the CNMI-only

which he also drafted—that caused \$4.4 million to be transferred from the Bank of Guam account set up by Pelisamen. Cushnie said the money was transferred to Bellas’ trust account.

The \$4.4 million was the compensation given by the now defunct Marianas Public Land Authority to the Rita Kaipat estate for the taking of a piece of land.

The lawyer said that, based on the order that Bellas drafted and was signed by then Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama, the \$4.4 million was split among three estates—Rita Kaipat, Benigno Kaipat and Isaac Kaipat.

Cushnie pointed out that the evidence at trial established that the basis for the split was Bellas’ assertion that Vicenta Kaipat was the mother of Rita Kaipat.

This, Cushnie said, caused the award to be received by Rita Kaipat as representative of Vicenta, and thus her two children—Benigno and Isaac should share the amount.

Cushnie said the uncontradicted evidence at trial from Pelisamen and the birth record from the Catholic Diocese showed that Rita Kaipat’s mother was actually Ana Taman.

Thus, the lawyer said, the factual basis for the distribution was false and that Bellas had testified that he never checked the birth records.

Three checks were issued from Bellas’ account in equal amounts of approximately \$1.37 million each.

Cushnie said the checks for the es-

to join the contest, Muña said: “To become a role model and set an example for my contemporaries. ...I want also to experience something adventurous.”

Muña succeeds Kaylynn Angelynn L. Sablan, who was last year’s Liberation Day Queen.

In her message, Sablan said her reign as the 2008 Liberation Day Queen has been incredible and will always be a highlight in her life.

“It has been an honor serving you all...To the 2009 Ms. Liberation candidates, take this chapter in your life seriously because it’s a great learning experience. You will not regret it,” Sa-

transitional worker program, with only a few months left before the Nov. 28 federalization of CNMI immigration. Sablan said the regulations will be out “in due time.”

He reiterated that the law sets Nov. 28 as the start of transition to federal immigration, unless the U.S. Congress amends it. While he supports federalization as scheduled, he said he would still like to see the inclusion of Chinese and Russian tourists in the visa waiver program.

“I do expect to have a classified briefing on the concerns that the department is using to consider Chinese

tates of Benigno and Isaac were picked up by the respective administrators of those estates and were receipted by those individuals.

However, Cushnie said, the check for the estate of Rita Kaipat was not signed for by anyone. The voucher portion of the check was blank, unlike the two other checks.

When asked about this, Bellas testified that he gave the check to Arriola, Cushnie said.

Cushnie said that Bellas further testified that this check transfer took place in a parking lot, either at the Bank of Guam or Bank of Hawaii. When asked why the check was not signed for, Bellas allegedly testified that Arriola was in a hurry.

Cushnie said that Pelisamen’s two trials included the testimony of Marcie Tomokane, vice president and general manager of the Bank of Guam.

He said Tomokane testified that Bellas established an account in the Bank of Guam and deposited the check from his trust account payable to the Rita Kaipat estate.

Cushnie said the bank official further testified and produced documents showing that the account was later transferred from Bellas to Arriola.

“Pelisamen does not appear anywhere on these banking transactions, and repeatedly testified that he was unaware of any split of the \$4.4 million, much less that the money had been transferred out of the account he set up in the Bank of Guam,” Cushnie said.

resort/golf course and casino.

Federalization

Hofschneider said Neo Gold Wings is also focusing on Japanese and Korean markets, cushioning the impact of Chinese’s exclusion from the CNMI-Guam Joint Visa Waiver Program come Nov. 28.

Neo Gold Wings is one of three groups of investors planning to put up a casino on Tinian.

Bridge Investment Group halted construction at the site because of uncertainties involving the federalization of CNMI immigration and the exclusion

blan said.

Crowned Miss 2009 Liberation runner-up was 15-year-old Richelle Layan Mungwaath, a student of Marianas High School.

Mungwaath is the daughter of Potenciana Fritz and Richard Mungwaath and represented the Palau Community Association.

Seventeen-year-old Kayla Roseann L. Sablan, the daughter of Marian Lizama and Lorenzo Robert, was named Miss Liberation Royal Princess.

‘Continue the tradition’

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, who is this year’s grand marshal for the 63rd

and Russians as threats to the CNMI,” he added.

A congressional letter signed by U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources chair Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), ranking member of the committee Sen. Lisa Murkowski (D-Alaska), Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, and Sablan asked Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano for the swift and coordinated implementation of the federalization law, Public Law 110-229.

Sablan said he does not expect a re-

He said Arriola then transferred the money, which Bellas had deposited into the Bank of Guam account, to the Bank of Hawaii.

“Arriola, alone set up a new account in the Bank of Hawaii for the \$1.37 million and the wire transfer, which forms the basis of the wire fraud charge and conspiracy to commit wire fraud took place,” Cushnie said.

He cited a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that states that a new trial is required if a false testimony had a reasonable likelihood of affecting the judgment of the jury.

If the government was not aware that Bellas was not telling the truth in his handling of the \$1.37 million, Cushnie said they should have known because he was their prime witness and without him they could not establish a case.

He said Bellas drafted the petition to take the \$4.4 million and split it three ways, contrary to the MPLA award. Cushnie said Bellas also drafted the order to take the \$4.4 million and place it his own trust account.

Cushnie said the former judge drafted the orders for fees for himself and the justification for his conduct after he was terminated by Pelisamen.

“At all stages of Mr. Bellas’ conduct, [Pelisamen] testified he was never told anything about what was happening. It was all a secret,” Cushnie said.

He said Bellas then testified that he turned over the \$1.37 million check from his trust account to Arriola.

“Of course, this is designed to show

Liberation Day parade, hopes to see the annual tradition continue.

“I am confident that our future mayors will keep this yearly tradition of our Liberation Day festivities more successful than ever,” Tudela said, who is in his last year in office.

This year’s theme is “Path for Peace,” which depicts the Marianas struggle after being liberated 63 years ago.

“As we work together in unity, as a single community, we become stronger, we develop a greater respect and admiration for one another, regardless of our roots, to form a stronger nation and a stronger world we live in,” Tudela said.

sponse from Napolitano regarding the concerns he raised about the alleged mistreatment of CNMI travelers by federal officers at the Guam airport.

“I don’t need a response from secretary Napolitano. I just want it to stop... In any event, a federal official should not... point his finger at a person’s face whether or not that person is right or wrong. That’s got to stop anywhere, even if it’s not in Guam or the CNMI,” he said.

This is Sablan’s third trip to Saipan since he was sworn into office in Washington, D.C. in January.

that Pelisamen’s] new attorney received the funds for Mr. Pelisamen and the defendant thus had knowledge of what was happening,” he said.

The truth, the lawyer said, is that Bellas never turned over the check to Arriola but deposited it into a Bank of Guam account that he set up as the attorney for Pelisamen, the then administrator of the Rita Kaipat estate.

“But Mr. Pelisamen never knew of this, and Mr. Bellas had been fired from employment several days before,” he said.

Even assuming that Bellas was representing Pelisamen as administrator, Cushnie said Bellas had no legal authority under the probate rules to set up any such account.

“There was no court order or any other authorization for him to assume control of these funds. Once the account was set up, Mr. Bellas then transferred the account to Mr. Arriola, again without any legal justification,” Cushnie said.

The court set the sentencing of Pelisamen for Sept. 29, 2009.

According to the indictment, Arriola and Pelisamen illegally transferred funds belonging to the Kaipat estate from the Bank of Guam to the Bank of Hawaii on Nov. 28, 2005.

Philippine authorities recently arrested Arriola in a village in the northern Philippines. The lawyer has reportedly been turned over to Philippine immigration agents, who will process his deportation to the U.S.

CASINO

From Page 1

spite the global economic downturn, there is still substantial investment capital available for projects of this magnitude because of entrepreneurs with a vision and an idea for success.

“The international NGP investors believe, as we do, that Tinian is a special place with much potential. And NGP is moving to realize this enormous potential with their vision and their investment capital,” the governor said.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Ti-

nian) said yesterday that, with investment partners such as Stanley Ho, the Neo Gold Wings casino and resort project is a big boost to the CNMI economy. Ho is a longtime member of the Forbes billionaires’ club

“It has reputable financiers, investment partners. This is a very promising development and the biggest investment in the region,” Hofschneider said, adding that more jobs will also be created as a result of the project.

Neo Gold Wings, he said, will now work on securing necessary environmental permits. The project is described as a “six-star,” 1,000-room mega hotel

of its main target market—Chinese, along with Russian tourists—from the joint visa waiver program. Another investor, Marianas Resort Development Corp., plans to build a \$300 million Matua Bay Resort.

So far, only Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, which relies heavily on the Chinese tourist market, is operational on the island.

The Neo Gold Wings groundbreaking came a day after its executives met with Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and Public Lands secretary John Del Rosario at the governor’s office on Capital Hill to present their revised architectural and

engineering design.

Fitial and Hofschneider said changes in the design raised the investment value from \$300 million to \$1 billion.

“The investment commitment has now substantially increased. When completed, this project will be the largest development project in the CNMI. It will be a major attraction in the region, and it will be among the largest in the region. If we build this project, tourists will come and other projects will emerge, bringing more investment into our islands. This casino-resort project is the ultimate form of destination enhancement for the CNMI,” the governor said.

BOE: Pay differential for special ed 'retroactive'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Public School System had started issuing pay differential to hard-to-fill positions in its special education program as mandated by Education Board policy.

However, there is confusion among PSS staff as to when

they are entitled to receive the approved incentive, according to board member Galvin Deleon Guerrero, who raised this issue during the board's special meeting on Wednesday. He cited the need to clarify what was really decided by the body.

"The issue about the retroactive nature of pay differential continues to create confusion

among our staff and the board need to clarify this concern because there are many who have been waiting for this pay for a long time," Deleon Guerrero told the board.

Board chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita wants a thorough review of the adopted regulations to make sure that what PSS is implementing is in line with board policy.

It was decided that if the retroactive pay provision is unclear, the board will revisit

the regulations and include clarifications.

The board published the regulation on pay differential for hard-to-fill positions early this year so PSS could retain qualified service personnel and to remain competitive in order to recruit qualified candidates.

A pay differential of \$10,000—the maximum approved incentive—is provided for doctorate degree specialty areas including but not limited to speech pathologists, audi-

ologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and psychologists, while an \$8,000 pay differential was approved for related service professionals like certified audiologists, certified speech language pathologists, registered physical therapists, registered occupational therapists, and registered/licensed educational psychologists.

For personnel with bachelor's degree in special education, the board approved a \$3,000 pay differential on top of their salary. These specialty areas cover special education, early

intervention, early childhood special education, deaf education, visual impairments, severe disabilities, autism, multiple disabilities, serious social and emotional disturbances, behavioral and transition specialist.

Special education personnel and related service providers who are outside the 190-day contract, or those working on an hourly basis, were also approved \$75 per hour differential.

If an individual qualifies for two or more pay differentials, only the pay differential that compensates at a higher rate will be allowed.

DPH issues guidelines for avoiding swine flu

With one confirmed A(H1N1) case in Guam, the CNMI Department of Public Health is urging the public to follow its FLU W.A.T.C.H. guidelines on how to avoid getting sick:

- **Wash** your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after you cough or sneeze. Hand sanitizers are also effective.

- **Avoid** sick people and **avoid** touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way.

- **Teach** others how to prevent the flu.

- **Cover** your cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your sleeve, not your hands! Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it and wash your hands.

- **Have** an emergency plan ready and keep a two week supply of food and emergency supplies and medicine at home.

Other steps to take:

- Do not go to school or work if you are sick, particularly if you have a fever and cough.

- Contact your doctor if you have flu-like symptoms.

If you are sick, CDC recommends that you:

- Stay home for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have

- been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep

- from spreading the virus to other people.

- Stay informed. This is an evolving situation and Health officials will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Common H1N1 flu symptoms:

- Fever (average temperature of 100.5 F)

- Cough

- Shortness of breath

- A high percentage of confirmed H1N1 cases seem to be having vomiting and diarrhea.

* H1N1 is thought to spread through the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick with the virus.

- The largest number of novel H1N1 confirmed and probable cases are occurring in people from the ages of 5 to 24; many are school-aged children.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health

Fund to ask the court to interpret amended laws

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees have voted to file a petition for letters of instruction with the Superior Court to get a clear interpretation and mandate on specific amended laws that affect the Fund.

During its special meeting on Wednesday, it was disclosed that majority of lawsuits filed against the agency covered "amended" issues that should not be brought against the Fund.

One example is a public law that originally provided a 3-percent bonus every year to former lawmakers, without any funding appropriated for the purpose. Though it was repealed, the trustees disclosed that many use this as a ground for suing the Fund.

Lawyers for the Fund said that asking for the court's clarification will also fill some important gaps for the agency and stop the bleeding of the Fund.

"So many laws were repealed and amended with respect to the

Retirement Fund and because of these amended provisions, we're dealing with some problems like the disability law. We need to get some clear interpretation and guidance from the court," board chair Juan T. Guerrero said.

The trustees believe that by getting the court's instruction, it will give the Fund a stronger case when defending itself in court.

There are two ongoing litigations against the Fund; both were discussed during Wednesday's meeting.

Thomas P. Villagomez had sued the Fund trustees and the administrator on June 16 at the U.S. District Court, and one of the issues he brought up deals with the 3-percent bonus he was supposed to get as a former lawmaker.

Another is the lawsuit filed by Malinda S. Matson at the U.S. District Court on June 18.

The court recently ruled in favor of the Fund when it ordered the local government to pay the Fund \$231.6 million in damages for not remitting its employer contributions.

11 Saipan beaches get red flags

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on 11 sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from Poupau Beach, San Roque Beach, Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW

Channel Bridge, South Puerto Rico Dump, Smiling Cove Marina, American Memorial Park, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach Drainage, Sugar Dock, and CK Drainage #2 on Saipan contained excessive concentrations of enterococci—a fecal indicator bacteria—that exceeded the

CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

Samples from Managaha and Tinian did not exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards and got green flags.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and 11 from the shore surrounding Managaha.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Fourth of July Liberation Day

BUCKLE UP CNMI IT'S THE LAW.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

DRUNK DRIVING OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.

Cops are cracking down.

One for the road... Is it Really worth it?

Remember, impairments start with the first drink and impaired driving is a crime. Law enforcement are conducting sobriety checkpoints, Roving patrols everywhere and asking citizens to report impaired drivers.

No matter how many times you've heard it, there are just people who just don't get it — DRINKING AND DRIVING DON'T MIX.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CNMI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TEL. NO. 664-9120/9085

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The key to North Korea

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il decided long ago that nuclear weapons were his best protection against an external threat of regime change. In ill health and preparing his youngest son, "Brilliant Comrade" Kim Jong Un, to succeed him, Kim seems to have decided that the bomb also is crucial to staving off an internal threat to the family dynasty that has ruled the hermit state since its founding. His powerful military wants a nuclear deterrent, and Kim wants to deliver it by 2012. That explains the urgency in his nuclear and missile tests, and makes the prospect of nuclear disarmament doubly difficult. The pending succession adds a layer of uncertainty and risk to North Korea's standoff with the West.

That standoff is playing out on the high seas and in high finance. The Navy is trailing a rusty North Korean cargo ship believed to have been ferrying missile parts for sale to Myanmar. U.N. sanctions to cut off North Korea's arms trade, which were enacted after Pyongyang's second nuclear test on May 25, allow the United States and its allies to intercept the ship. The North Korean government declared that would be an act of war and threatened to "wipe out the aggressors on the globe once and for all" if it considered itself to be under attack. But the ship apparently is turning back now, after U.S. moves to freeze assets and isolate companies that facilitate North Korea's weapons trade. Pyongyang, meanwhile, is poised to test-fire more missiles, possibly in time for the July 4 holiday, and the U.S. has put defense systems on alert.

President Obama says he'd like to break the cycle in which North Korea provokes an international crisis to extract aid and concessions from global powers that are trying to sanction Pyongyang into abandoning its nuclear ambitions. The key to ending this brinkmanship, however, lies not with Kim but with Beijing. China is North Korea's main Communist ally and trading partner, and although it would like to see an end to Pyongyang's nuclear program, it has so far demonstrated greater concern about the prospect of regime collapse that would likely create an economic crisis in the region.

China's patience seems to be wearing thin, as it did sign on to the June 12 U.N. resolution. Obama's coordinator on the resolution, Ambassador Philip Goldberg, is in China this week and must work to convince the government that further steps are needed. A credible threat from Beijing to cut off trade could persuade Pyongyang to give up on nuclear weapons. As with Iran, Obama should make clear to Kim that Washington seeks nuclear disarmament, not regime change. At the same time, he should make clear to China that if the North Korean regime were to collapse, the United States and its allies would help share the economic burden.

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The US in Iraq: An audit of the pain

By **LINDA J. BILMES** and **JOSEPH STIGLITZ**
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Tuesday, the U.S. "stood down" in Iraq, finalizing the pull-out of 140,000 troops from Iraqi cities and towns—the first step on the long path home. After more than six years, most Americans are war-weary, even though a smaller percentage of us have been involved in the actual fighting than in any major conflict in U.S. history. We have relegated the car and suicide bombings to the inside pages of newspapers, accepting at face value that the "surge" has calmed things down enough so we can finally leave the whole sorry Iraq adventure behind us.

But not so fast. The conflict that began in 2003 is far from over for us, and the next chapter—confronting a Taliban that reasserted itself in Afghanistan while the U.S. was sidetracked in Iraq—will be expensive and bloody. The death toll for U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan reached 5,000 in June. An additional 80,000 Americans have been wounded or injured since the war in Iraq began. More than 300,000 of our troops have required medical treatment, and Army statistics show that more than 17 percent of our returning soldiers suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Meanwhile, in Iraq, even though most of the population has long told pollsters they can't wait for U.S. forces to leave, U.S. officials have said we are likely to station 50,000 troops at military bases in the country for the foreseeable future. This is because the situation in Iraq is highly precarious. The country ranks high on lists of the most dangerous places on Earth, with a continual stream of suicide bombings and murders targeting political and religious leaders as well as civilians. According to the Brookings Institution's Iraq Index, 2 million people—largely from the middle class by most accounts—fled Iraq during the war, but only a handful have returned. (The vast majority of Iraq's doctors, lawyers and other professionals are now living abroad, and many are seeking asylum.) An additional 2.7 million "internal" refugees—10 percent of the population—abandoned their homes, and most are too frightened to go back. The struggle for power among Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis is still in flux, with battles looming over oil and land.

Moreover, the U.S. barely has begun to face the enormous financial bill for the war. By our accounting, the U.S. has already spent \$1 trillion on operations and related defense spending, with more to come—and it will cost perhaps \$2 trillion more to repay the war debt, replenish military equipment and provide care and treatment for U.S. veterans back home. Many of the wounded will require indefinite care for brain and spinal injuries. Disability payments are ramping up and will grow higher for decades. The stress of ex-

tended, multiple tours to Iraq means that a whole generation of U.S. military men and women may now be suffering from long-term mental health issues. The suicide rate in the Army is at its highest level since record-keeping began.

This wartime spending undoubtedly has been a major contributor to our present economic collapse. The U.S. has waged an expensive war as if it required little or no economic sacrifice, funding the conflict by massive borrowing. As we've observed in the past, you can't spend \$3 trillion on a reckless foreign war and not feel the pain at home. Burned by the difficulties in Iraq, our political leaders have no illusions about the length and difficulty of the challenge facing us in Afghanistan. But in other respects we seem set to repeat the same mistakes that we made in Iraq. The president has just signed yet another "emergency" supplemental appropriations measure (\$80 billion) to fund continuing operations in Iraq and expansion into Afghanistan. This means that for the 30th time since 2001, war spending has been rushed through the budget process without serious scrutiny.

The U.S. has 240,000 contractors working in the two war theaters—but the Pentagon's oversight of independent contractors remains lax. The Army Criminal Investigation Command—which just a few weeks ago brought fraud charges against a contractor responsible for supplying our troops with bulletproof vests—is woefully understaffed, with fewer than 100 people to investigate billions of dollars in alleged war profiteering.

Obstacles continue to beset returning veterans too. Despite an increase in the Department of Veterans Affairs budget, the backlog of disability claims has reached its highest level, and the budget for helping returning veterans reintegrate into civilian life is less than we spend in a single day of combat operations.

Early this year, President Barack Obama committed 20,000 troops to a "surge" in Afghanistan. That, combined with a large, ongoing presence in Iraq and continued reliance on private contractors for virtually every aspect of military support, remains a recipe for staggering out-of-control expenditures. Surely we can draw some lessons from the Iraq debacle and set aside money to care for our veterans, crack down on fraud and profiteering, and account for the true costs of the war in the budget so the American taxpayer can see what we are paying for.

Bilmes of Harvard University is a former assistant secretary of Commerce. Stiglitz of Columbia University is a winner of the Nobel Prize in economics and a former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors. They are the co-authors of The Three Trillion Dollar War: The True Cost of the Iraq Conflict.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How to talk to Iran

The Obama administration expects Iran's hard-line leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and his protege, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, to weather the protests that followed this month's apparently rigged election. And no matter how the political turmoil comes out, President Barack Obama expects Iran's nuclear engineers to continue enriching uranium, moving the country steadily closer to building a nuclear weapon.

Those sobering forecasts are topmost in the minds of Obama and his advisers as they try to crack a diplomatic dilemma: Can the United States still entice Khamenei into negotiations to bring Iran's nuclear project under international control—but, at the same time, support the growing opposition to the ayatollah's rule?

That's why Obama's public statements about Iran have been so cautious. Last week, 11 days after Ahmadinejad claimed victory, Obama finally issued a full-throated condemnation of the regime's violent repression of its opponents -- but he still refrained from calling Ahmadinejad's re-election illegitimate, as critics had urged.

The immediate reason for Obama's diffidence, of course, was a desire to avoid harming the Iranian democrats by making them look like tools of the Great Satan. "It's not about us; it's about them," said R. Nicholas Burns, a former top U.S. State Department official who sought (without success) to open U.S. talks with Iran in the Bush administration.

But the bigger factor in Obama's mind is that the most concrete U.S. interest in Iran isn't about shaping the outcome of the street protests (a goal the United States has little ability to pursue), it's halting the Islamic Republic's relentless progress toward nuclear weapons capability.

It was telling that when Obama was asked last week whether there was any level of repression in Iran that would prompt him to stop seeking negotiations, he talked instead about the reasons both sides should talk.

"The United States has core national security interests in making sure that Iran doesn't possess a nuclear weapon and it stops exporting terrorism outside of its borders," he said in his news conference on Tuesday. "We have provided a path whereby Iran can reach out to the international community, engage and become a part of international norms. It is up to them to make a decision."

Obama and his aides insist, of course, that they are not indifferent

to the cause of democracy. The problem, they say, is that events in Iran are operating on two different clocks -- one fast, one slow. "The nuclear clock is ticking," one Obama aide warned. Some analysts believe Iran will enrich enough uranium to build a nuclear weapon within two years. The "democracy clock," meanwhile, may take much longer. The administration's Iran-watchers believe that nation is in for a long period of turmoil -- but they see no real prospect of a quick, benign revolution in the short term.

And that leaves the administration with a challenge: How to pursue negotiations with Iran without inadvertently lending support to the regime.

"We've got to be very careful not to give undue legitimacy and credibility to the Ahmadinejad regime—not when people are on the streets protesting," Burns said. "It clearly would be a mistake for us to rush to negotiations on the nuclear issue or any other issue. ... We should continue to speak out in support of the people in the street and let events take their course."

But a top Obama foreign policy adviser told me the president still wants negotiations as soon as possible. "We do not believe that talking is a reward for good behavior, or that not talking is a good punishment for bad behavior," he said, requesting anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. "We've seen what comes from not talking. In 2001, Iran had zero (nuclear enrichment) centrifuges; now they have more than 5,000, and maybe more than 7,000. Not talking wasn't a particularly useful thing."

So far, Iran's responses to Obama's outstretched hand have been dismissive—fulfilling the forecasts of most Iran-watchers that the regime, under pressure, is likely to retreat to its traditional hard-line stance rather than take any risks on the unknown ground of negotiations with the Great Satan.

Last week, in response to Obama's relatively mild criticism, Ahmadinejad demanded an apology and said negotiations would be useless. "If that is your stance, then what is left to talk about?" he asked.

In one sense, if Iran's hard-liners continue to dig in their heels, Obama's diplomatic challenge is simpler. The administration's plan all along has been to determine whether Iran was serious about making a deal, and—if not—to quickly seek tougher international sanctions against the regime. Ahmadinejad's truculent reaction had the virtue of clarity.

By **DOYLE MCMANUS**

(c) 2009, *Los Angeles Times*

McManus is a Times columnist. He can be reached at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



A more difficult decision will face the administration if Khamenei and Ahmadinejad opt for a more conciliatory policy. What if the hard-liners decide the best way to bolster their popularity is to negotiate with the United States? Most Iran-watchers think that's unlikely; anti-Americanism has been one of the regime's core values. But Khamenei, a more subtle strategist than Ahmadinejad, has said he would embrace negotiations if he thought they were in the Islamic Republic's interest.

Even then, Obama and his aides say they will want to negotiate. Talking with your enemies is one of their core values. And, despite howls from their critics and discomfort among their friends over the risk of giving comfort to a repressive regime, they'll be right.

Of course, Obama should never mute U.S. condemnation of internal repression in Iran or U.S. support for human rights as a price for nuclear talks—and he will not, aides say.

Indeed, the trick will be maintaining clear moral support for Iran's democrats—plus any other aid that's useful, including keeping Iranians' lines of communication open, from Western broadcasts to cell phones to Twitter—in the face of Iranian negotiators' inevitable complaints.

But in skillful hands, negotiations need not strengthen a dying regime. Instead, if the mullahs can be talked into abandoning some of the ideological pillars that have sustained their revolution for three decades, negotiations could undermine their rule in the long run.

And that's not a new challenge for American diplomacy. Twenty years ago, Ronald Reagan sought nuclear arms deals with Soviet leaders even as he denounced the Soviet Union as "an evil empire." Reagan aimed to undermine Soviet communism, but he also negotiated with its leaders—and he succeeded at both.

In a week of Jackson news, Sanford may be the man in the mirror

Last week: What a thrill ride of news!

On June 23, Ed McMahon died, and pontificators everywhere got to work fashioning remarks about the unsung virtues of second banana-dom. On June 25, Farrah Fawcett died, and we were treated to semiotic analysis of her hairstyle and famous red-bathing-suit poster. Then, less than six hours later, news of the death of Michael Jackson briefly caused the Earth to stop turning.

And while all that was going on, California careened toward bankruptcy, election protests in Iran continued to boil into violence and the House passed a potentially historic climate change bill.

Still, a seemingly less compelling (albeit salacious) story managed to cut through the din. I'm talking about the case of South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, who had not only run off to Argentina to see his mistress, television producer Maria Belen Chapur, but lied about it by telling his family, his staff and, by extension, his constituency that he was hiking alone on the Appalachian Trail.

In a rambling, noticeably unscripted and rather bizarre news conference on June 24, Sanford admitted he'd been unfaithful to his wife. He'd "spent the last five days of my life crying in Argentina" (or perhaps he was singing a song from "Evita" and had mangled the lyrics). Meanwhile, a South Carolina newspaper released e-mail correspondence between Sanford and Chapur, which much of the nation seemed to have read by dinner time. In the e-mails, Sanford revealed himself to be a man deeply smitten, if not exactly another Keats. "I love your tan lines" proved among the more quotable phrases.

Despite the humiliation of it all, Sanford's peccadilloes seemed destined to be washed away in the tidal wave of coverage of Jackson's death. From a public relations standpoint, it appeared the gov-

ernor had received a get-out-of-jail free card from the ghost of the King of Pop. I, for one, thought Sanford would roll off the screen crawl along with McMahon and Fawcett.

I was wrong. A week later, even as the Jackson tributes have given way to rumors of autopsy leaks and conjectures about his children's paternity, we're still hearing about Sanford. Tuesday, The Associated Press reported that he admitted he'd "crossed lines" with other women in the past and that he considered Chapur "his soul mate," but was "trying to fall back in love with his wife." Naturally, such "news," despite being more banal than titillating—or, more precisely, despite being a banality dressed up as titillation—was ricocheting around the Internet within minutes.

I'm tempted to assume that the staying power of the Sanford story is simply a function of its prurience. Sex scandals, after all, are much better for ratings than serious—read "boring"—events. It's also true that Sanford's lies take this saga beyond the realm of mere sexual impropriety and make it a genuine matter of political concern. (Nevada Sen. John Ensign, who confessed to an affair recently, has endured considerably less news coverage, perhaps because he at least had the good sense to keep his cell phone on during his dalliances.)

So what's left to say about the Sanford saga? Call me crazy, but amid all this finger-wagging, am I detecting just a little bit of—gasp—empathy? Is there something about Sanford's puppyish comportment, not to mention the fact that, unlike many adulterous politicians, he seems to be truly in love with his mistress (or at least truly convinced that he is) that's making him less a pariah and more a symbol of the male midlife crisis? For all his duplicity and entitlement, are some Americans—particularly men—feeling as much pity as outrage? Consider this small sample:

By **MEGHAN DAUM**

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Daum is an essayist and novelist in Los Angeles. E-mail Daum at mdaum@latimescolumnists.com.



"This is a story of loneliness," New York Times columnist David Brooks said on "Meet the Press" Sunday. "(These guys) get to middle age, and they realize there's some emotional vacuum in their lives."

It "was about something much deeper than politics," wrote Gary Kamiya in Salon. "It was awful, but it was real. And painful as it is, in the repressed American sexual landscape, reality is better than artifice."

And then there was my dad, who told me the day of the Sanford news conference something to the effect that "you have no idea how easy it is for men to completely lose their minds because of infatuation with women."

No one's excusing Sanford's behavior. But as we slog through another week of the Jackson postmortem-palooza and wonder at the fact that we're also still hearing about the South Carolina governor's love for certain tan lines, maybe it's worth asking ourselves why. Is it because we're uncategorically appalled? Or is it because maybe, just maybe, there's a tiny bit of Mark Sanford in, if not all men, quite a few of them? And that's more than you can say of Michael Jackson.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Apology

Dear people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.:

I write this letter to apologize for having violated the Commonwealth

Utilities Corporation Code 4 CMC Section 8154 against the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation between January 2005 and March 2007. I realize what I did was wrong and it has brought shame to me and my family.

I committed this crime for my own selfish reason. My mistake has caused me to experience hardship and difficulties. I am now serving a jail sentence of three years. I have to pay a fine of \$500 and a \$100 court assessment fee.

I have learned from my mistake. I will do all that I can from here on to be a better person.

I am extremely remorseful for the wrong that I have done, and I promise that it will never happen again. Once again, please forgive me for the shameful thing I have done.






Francisco F. Faisao

Chalan Laulau, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

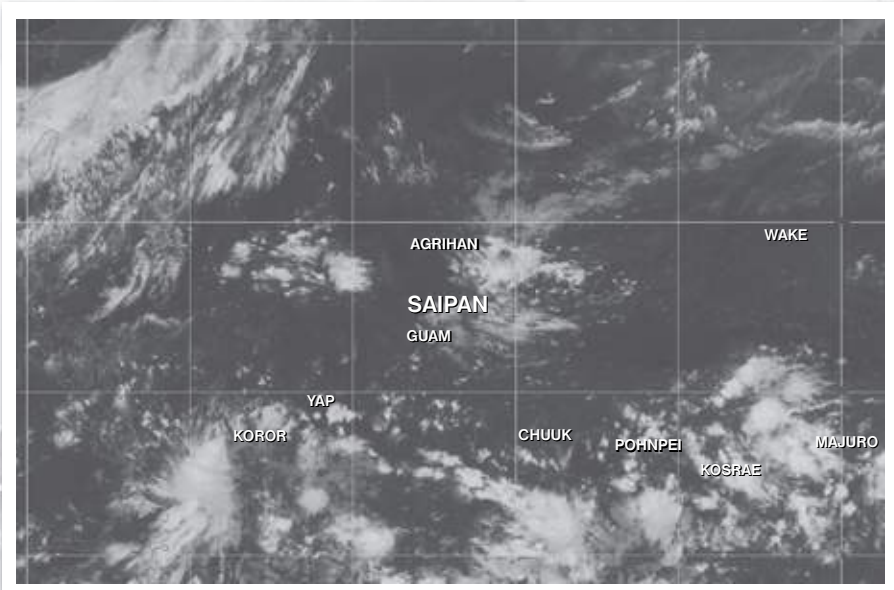
TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲80° ▼70°	▲80° ▼70°	▲80° ▼70°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲82 ▼75
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼76
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87 ▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲80 ▼75
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Rain	▲59 ▼48
Beijing	Cloudy	▲94 ▼74
Hong Kong	Rain	▲88 ▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲77 ▼57
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84 ▼64
Manila	Rain	▲87 ▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲62 ▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲81 ▼66
Osaka	Showers	▲81 ▼69
Paris	Showers	▲83 ▼63
Pusan	Sunny	▲78 ▼69
Rome	Sunny	▲88 ▼69
Salem	Sunny	▲90 ▼52
San Francisco	Showers	▲75 ▼57
Seoul	Rain	▲81 ▼63
Tokyo	Rain	▲81 ▼70
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼65

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
4:08 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:04 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:37 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough extends northeastward from 18N130E to an upper-level low centered at 22N137E then continues southeastward to another upper-level low centered at 16N152E then finally continues northeastward to end at 23N180. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms can be found north of a line from 22N130E to 24N135E, between 17N and 19N from 133E to 140E and east of the Marianas between 16N and 18N from 147E to 155E. A monsoon trough runs east-southeastward from 8N130E to a surface low centered near Kosrae, then continues southward to end at EQ165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found west of a line from EQ132E to 7N132E, south of a line from 3N135E to 4N137E to 2N142E, near Koror and Yap within 100 miles of a line from 8N135E to 5N148E and south of Chuuk and Pohnpei or south of a line from 3N150E to 3N160E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:51 AM	6:52 PM	Saturday	4:21 PM	2:53 AM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM	Sunday	5:13 PM	3:42 AM
Monday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM	Monday	6:03 PM	4:33 AM
Tuesday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM	Tuesday	6:50 PM	5:25 AM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM	Wednesday	7:33 PM	6:17 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 3, 2009

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7	C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
				C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM				GUAM-ROTA (ROP)			
C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7	C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
				C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily	C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5	C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily	C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
				C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily	NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO	NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily	NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 4, 6	OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)				NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily	NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 4, 6 via KIX	OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6	CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA				MANILA-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	C0894/9604	10:00am	5:50pm	6 via GUM
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09317/893	4:30am	8:50am	7 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM				
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
				OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services										
CATHOLIC										
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm										
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm										
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm										
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am										
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm										
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm										
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm										
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm										
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm										
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am										
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm										
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism										
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am										
PROTESTANT										
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm										
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm										
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm										
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm										
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions										
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm										
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)										
Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto										
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)										
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)										
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday										
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm										
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)										
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm										
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm										
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620										
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm										
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)										
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm										
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm										
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm										
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Aletna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Wednesday <table><tr><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. McLure at 234-1939/235-7779.			9am	Sunday school	10am	Regular worship	6pm	worship	7pm	worship
9am	Sunday school									
10am	Regular worship									
6pm	worship									
7pm	worship									
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism										
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30 a.m-6:30 a.m Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr></table> Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,		
7am-9am	English service									
7am-9am	Sunday school									
10am-12noon	English service,									
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S										

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 4, 2000

Teno hikes FY 2001 budget
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday hiked up spending level of the courts and the Legislature for the next fiscal year after chopping off initial appropriation for repayment of the anticipated \$60 million bond by the government. Because of the increase, total funding for government operations for FY 2001 is now pegged at \$217.25 million which is up by one million dollars from the initial budget proposal submitted by the governor last April. He indicated, however, that the estimated revenues available for legislative appropriation will remain at \$226.24 million, including the \$4.4 million in public land leases specifically set aside to the Division of Public Lands.

Enron, CUC to finalize deal
Negotiations between the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and Texas-based Enron on a final deal on the controversial Saipan power project are expected to begin in the next few weeks as CUC concludes its search for legal counsels. The government-owned utility firm has also begun addressing protests lodged against conditional grant of the estimated \$120 million contract to Enron with letters sent to other bidders informing them of the development, according to officials. CUC is close to selecting a U.S. mainland law firm to represent the agency in the forthcoming negotiations on the contract, said Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero, adding that an announcement will be made by early next week.

July 4, 2001

NMI faces higher power rates
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is considering raising power rates, as it continues to suffer from an operating deficit of nearly \$3 million. The deficit, which CUC claimed to be triggered by rising fuel prices, has weakened its financial position by \$6 million compared to the same period last year. “Now, the comptroller is saying [that] if we’re going to do this, then we must keep to our guns and implement it,” CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez said in an interview. Villagomez cited the recommendation of CUC comptroller Ed Williams to impose higher power rates if a service study is eventually conducted. At present, power rates for residential and commercial areas are pegged at 14 and 16 cents per kilowatt hour, respectively.

Guest workers can stay longer in CNMI
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday gave a significant pre-Liberation Day present to all non-resident workers in the Commonwealth-the suspension of the three-year stay limit law. After months of anticipation, and public pronouncements about his intention, Tenorio yesterday signed into law the bill suspending the implementation of Public Law 11-69 to permit a thorough assessment of its potential impact on the Commonwealth. It came as no surprise. Even as House Bill 12-317 was still being deliberated in the Legislature, Tenorio had already expressed his support for the move to suspend the implementation of the three year-stay limit law.

July 4, 2002

Liberation Day festivities all set-unless Chataa intervenes
It’s a celebration of freedom today as the CNMI commemorate the 56th year of the Northern Marianas’ liberation from almost 400 years of colonial rule. “The liberation of our people 56 years ago is a significant milestone. It marks a beginning, after almost 400 years of colonial rule, that we, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands were afforded the opportunity to determine our own political destiny,” said Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente in their official public message. They added that this year’s celebration also commemorates the Commonwealth’s evolution into a multi-cultural society that works hard toward a common goal.

PSS bares baseline data from locally-drafted Reading test
Education Commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos said the Public School System now holds baseline data that’s seen to erase “guessing” in the PSS’ continued efforts to improve student achievement-with the newly released results of the locally-made standards-based Reading assessment conducted on 4th, 8th and 11th graders. The PSS Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Office briefed the Board of Education yesterday on the results that illustrated both the strong and weak points of students in the selected grade levels.

Business

Marshals seize Madoff penthouse, wife leaves

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal marshals seized disgraced financier Bernard Madoff’s \$7 million Manhattan penthouse on Thursday and forced his wife to move out and leave her possessions behind, including a fur coat she had asked to take with her, an official told The Associated Press.

Proceeds from a sale of the property and its contents could be used to help reimburse those who lost billions of dollars investing with Madoff before he confessed to running a Ponzi scheme.

U.S. Marshal Joseph Guccione said the marshals arrived at the property at noon with a court order permitting them to take custody of the apartment and to make anyone living there move out. Guccione said Madoff’s wife Ruth had been advised in advance of the marshals’ plans and was leaving the residence and surrendering all personal property. “She will be leaving,” he said at midday. “Restitution for the victims is the government’s top priority.”

GM waits for judge’s ruling on sale plan

NEW YORK (AP)—The judge in the General Motors Corp. bankruptcy case adjourned a three-day hearing without indicating when he will rule on the company’s plan to sell its good assets to a new company. U.S. Judge Robert Gerber asked GM’s attorneys to submit a proposed order that would be entered if the sale were to be approved. They said they would do so by Friday night or Saturday. Gerber is expected to rule some time after that.

A lawyer for GM warned the court that the only alternative to GM’s plan would be a liquidation of the company’s assets that would have “horrific” consequences for everyone involved. Attorney Harvey Miller said the government is committed to cutting off funding to GM of the sale is not approved by July 10. That followed testimony Wednesday from a member of President Barack Obama’s automotive task force who indicated the government has no plans to continue funding GM past next Friday if the sale is not approved by then.

GM’s government-backed plan for a quick exit from Chapter 11 protection hinges on the sale of most of its assets to a new entity, allowing the automaker to leave behind many of the costs and liabilities that have made it unprofitable. The Detroit car maker’s June 1 filing for bankruptcy protection was the fourth-largest in U.S. history.

Typically, the U.S. Marshals Service changes all locks and secures a property when it seizes a location.

By about 1 p.m. EDT, 67-year-old Ruth Madoff had left. It was not immediately clear where she went to live.

Ruth Madoff first argued with marshals who came to the apartment and asked to stay, then asked if she could take a fur coat with her, a federal official informed of Ruth Madoff’s departure told The AP. The official wasn’t authorized to discuss details of her encounter with marshals and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ruth Madoff walked out of the apartment carrying just a straw bag after she was told she couldn’t take her coat, the official said.

“Ruth moved out voluntarily pursuant to the prior agreements we reached with the government,” said her lawyer, Peter Chavkin. He didn’t immediately comment later Thursday on the official’s account of Ruth Madoff’s departure from her apartment.

Some parties objecting to the sale argued in court that the Obama Administration won’t allow GM to fail.

“Essentially the objectors are asking you to play Russian roulette,” Miller told Gerber, adding that ignoring the deadline puts the futures of GM’s employees, retirees, and creditors all at risk.

Harry Wilson, the task force member that testified on Wednesday, said a quick sale is needed, because the government cannot keep sinking billions in tax dollars into the company for an open-ended period of time with no guarantee of success.

On Thursday, Michael Richman, an attorney for a trio of bondholders opposed to GM’s plan told Gerber to “call the government’s bluff” and require GM to restructure itself under Chapter 11 instead of approving the quick sale of its assets. This would allow the bondholders to negotiate for more in exchange for the debt they hold, he said.

Richman said that while the company may be powerless to fight the government’s demands, the court can “push back” to protect the interests of all the company’s stakeholders. The trio of bondholders Richman represents hold just a fraction of GM’s unsecured debt. One of the members bought his bonds for just 2 cents on the dollar, while the other two spent no more than 20 cents on the dollar for theirs.

Nation

Obama to tell Putin: Time to move past Cold War

WASHINGTON (AP)—Days from his first Moscow summit, President Barack Obama declared Thursday that former Russian President Vladimir Putin “still has a lot of sway” in his nation

and needs an in-person reminder the Cold War is over.

On next week’s trip, Obama will meet not only with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev but with Putin, the

prime minister who hand-picked Medvedev as his successor. Said Obama: “I think that it’s important that even as we move forward with President Medvedev that Putin understand that the old

Cold War approaches to U.S.-Russian relations is outdated. ... Putin has one foot in the old ways of doing business and one foot in the new.”

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press, Obama also:

■ Said he could see abandoning his own proposal to indefinitely hold some terror detainees — “it gives me great pause”—and said he would not be comfortable ordering such a disposition for Guantanamo Bay prisoners without congressional action.

■ In light of recent Supreme Court cases dealing with highly charged questions about the nation’s racial progress, said the high court was “moving the ball” away from affirmative action but noted the justices had not foreclosed the continued use of racial preferences

in hiring and college admissions, which he said he supports in some circumstances. In any case he said affirmative action is neither the panacea—nor the problem—that it’s often made out to be.

■ With most experts in agreement that there’s a good chance Iran could have a usable nuclear bomb sometime during his presidency, he said, “I’m not reconciled with that.”



Obama

Asked about Michael Jackson’s death, an event that has transfixed many, Obama said he didn’t see any controversy in the fact that he did not issue a formal public statement about the pop star and knew of no dissatisfaction among blacks about that. He said, “I know a lot of people in the black community and I haven’t heard that.”

GOP, White House at odds on Sotomayor documents

WASHINGTON (AP)—A top Republican pressed for more information Thursday about Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor’s ties to a Puerto Rican civil rights group he said took extreme positions on race, as the White House argued that the material was irrelevant to the judge’s nomination.

White House Counsel Greg Craig told Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., in a letter that board meeting minutes and other papers detailing the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund’s activities while Sotomayor was an outside adviser shouldn’t impact her nomination because she had no role in writing or approving them. But Sessions, the top Republican on the Senate committee that

will consider her nomination, said the papers could shed light on Sotomayor’s judicial approach, particularly her view of racial preferences in hiring.

“During her time there, the organization took extreme positions on legal issues ranging from the death penalty to abortion to racial quotas,” Sessions said in a statement. He said it was “absurd” for the White House to call the documents irrelevant.

The battle over the papers isn’t likely to damage Sotomayor’s chances of confirmation, since Democrats have more than enough votes in favor of President Barack Obama’s first high court nominee, and Republicans have shown little appetite for trying to block her.



Kris Larson, left, and Peter Lopes attach an American flag to a soccer-themed Independence Day parade float in Bristol, R.I., Monday, June 30, 2009.

RI town boasts USA’s longest-running July 4th fest

BRISTOL, R.I. (AP)—In July 1785, the citizens of this waterfront town assembled to heap praise on their newly minted nation and to thank God for helping them survive a fierce assault by the British during the Revolutionary War.

In July 1892, lawyer Orrin Bosworth preached that the townsfolk should be accepting of the immigrants arriving en masse: “America has no cause to fear the lover of freedom, be he American or foreign born.”

And in July 1963, judge Arthur Carrellas roared to the citizenry about the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to ban Bible readings in public schools.

Prayer, speeches and other such “patriotic exercises” have marked the

Fourth of July in Bristol every year since 1785—allowing the town to lay claim to the nation’s oldest Independence Day celebration.

Over the years, the speeches—given by judges, senators, war veterans and others—have run the gamut from typical exhortations of patriotism to musclexing against Communist countries to criticism of court decisions.

The patriotic exercises and annual parade that follows are institutions in Bristol, where pride in country is manifest in the red-white-and-blue center stripe that runs through the main artery of the town and in the American flags and banners that hang outside restored colonial homes.

The parade has continued uninter-

rupted with the exception of a few years—such as 1881, when President James Garfield was shot. Some events—like chasing a greased pig around the Common—have been abandoned, but modern-day fixtures include a concert series, orange crate derby, nighttime ball, a Miss (and Little Miss) Fourth of July pageant—even a contest recognizing the person who has traveled the farthest.

“Sometimes we think we have red, white and blue running through our bloodstream because of our commitment to the celebration,” said parade chairwoman Judy Squires, a lifelong Bristol resident and part of a committee of 110 volunteers that runs the event.

Senate bill fines people refusing health coverage

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans who refuse to buy affordable medical coverage could be hit with fines of more than \$1,000 under a health care overhaul bill unveiled Thursday by key Senate Democrats looking to fulfill President Barack Obama’s top domestic priority.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated the fines will raise around \$36 billion over 10 years. Senate aides said the penalties would be modeled on the approach taken by Massachusetts, which now imposes a fine of about \$1,000 a year on individuals who refuse to get coverage. Under the federal legislation, families would pay higher penalties than individuals.

In a revamped health care system envisioned by lawmakers, people

would be required to carry health insurance just like motorists must get auto coverage now. The government would provide subsidies for the poor and many middle-class families, but those who still refuse to sign up would face penalties.

Called “shared responsibility payments,” the fines would be set at least at half the cost of basic medical coverage, according to the legislation. The goal is to nudge people to sign up for coverage when they are healthy, not wait until they get sick.

In 2008, employer-provided coverage averaged \$12,680 a year for a family plan, and \$4,704 for individual coverage, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation’s annual survey. Senate aides, who spoke on condition of

anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, said the cost of the federal plan would be lower but declined to provide specifics.

The legislation would exempt certain hardship cases from fines. The fines would be collected through the income tax system.

The new proposals were released as Congress neared the end of a weeklong July 4 break, with lawmakers expected to quickly take up health care legislation when they return to Washington. With deepening divisions along partisan and ideological lines, the complex legislation faces an uncertain future.

Obama wants a bill this year that would provide coverage to the nearly 50 million Americans who lack it and reduce medical costs.

ACROSS THE NATION

SC gov’s wife may be able to forgive affair

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—South Carolina first lady Jenny Sanford says she may be able to forgive her husband’s much-publicized affair with an Argentine woman, but true reconciliation will take more time. In a statement e-mailed to reporters Thursday, Jenny Sanford called her husband’s behavior inexcusable but said she may be able to give him another chance. It was her first public remark since Gov. Mark Sanford told The Associated Press that Maria Belen Chapur is his soul mate but he is trying to fall back in love with his wife. “Forgiveness opens the door for Mark to begin to work privately, humbly and respectfully toward reconciliation with me,” she said. “However, to achieve true reconciliation will take time, involve repentance, and will not be easy.” Mark Sanford’s spokesman, Joel Sawyer, said the governor will travel Friday to be with his family in Florida, where his in-laws live.

VA silent on compensating for endoscopic mistakes

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—An attorney for veterans potentially exposed to HIV and other infections by colonoscopies at three Department

of Veterans Affairs hospitals said his clients are waiting to hear if they will be compensated for mistakes that led to congressional hearings and new VA spending on patient safety. A spokeswoman for the VA declined to comment about prospects for compensation. Katie Roberts said the more than 10,000 veterans who have been getting follow-up blood checks since February have the option of filing a complaint in a claim just like other VA patients. She said the VA has been advising the affected patients that they have the option of filing a claim.

Judge tentatively acquits woman in MySpace case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal judge on Thursday tentatively threw out the convictions of a Missouri mother for her role in a MySpace hoax directed at a 13-year-old neighbor girl who ended up committing suicide. U.S. District Judge George Wu said he was acquitting Lori Drew of misdemeanor counts of accessing computers without authorization but stressed the ruling was tentative until he issues it in writing. He noted the case of a judge who changed his mind after ruling. Drew showed no reaction to the decision.

Asia

NKorea fires missiles; launch toward US feared

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired a barrage of short-range missiles off its east coast in a possible prelude to the launch of a long-range missile toward Hawaii over the U.S. Independence Day holiday.

Firing a ballistic missile on the July Fourth celebration would be a challenge to Washington, which has been rallying international support for enforcement of U.N. sanctions imposed against Pyongyang following a May 25 nuclear test. North Korea is banned from testing ballistic missiles under U.N. resolutions.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura said Thursday that a long-range missile launch this weekend was possible. "We cannot rule out the possibility," he said, citing Pyongyang's past behavior.

In 2006, North Korea launched its most advanced Taepodong 2 missile while the U.S. celebrated Independence Day, though the rocket fizzled shortly after takeoff and fell into the ocean.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the United States remains concerned about North Korea's mis-

sile and nuclear programs but called North Korea's launches Thursday of short-range missiles "not unexpected."

Several U.S. Defense Department officials said there is nothing to indicate that North Korea is ready to launch a long-range ballistic missile and there appears to be no immediate threat to the United States.

The April 5 launch of a Taepodong-2 required 12 days of preparation on the launch pad, which was fully observable to U.S. satellites. Short and medium-range missiles, however, can be launched with little notice.

Marines suffer first casualties in Afghan campaign

NAWA, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S. Marines suffered their first casualties of a massive new military campaign Thursday as they engaged in sporadic gunbattles along 55 miles of Taliban-controlled heartland in southern Afghanistan.

One Marine was killed and several others were injured or wounded on the first full day of the assault, the largest military operation in Afghanistan since the fall of Taliban gov-

ernment in 2001.

The offensive will test the Obama administration's new strategy of holding territory and letting the Afghan government sink roots in Helmand province. The insurgency has proven particularly resilient in this area, where foreign troops have never before operated in such large numbers.

President Barack Obama told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday that he has

a "very narrow definition of success when it comes to our national security interests" in the region. "And that is that al-Qaida and its affiliates cannot set up safe havens from which to attack Americans."

"I think we can measure it by whether or not they've got training camps where people are coming in and getting trained in explosives, being sent out and directed in carrying out terrorist activity," Obama said in Washington.

UN chief to lobby Myanmar for Suu Kyi's release

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The U.N. secretary-general said ahead of his trip Friday to Myanmar that he plans to lobby the military-ruled country's top leader directly for the release of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was due to arrive in Myanmar for meetings with leaders Friday on the same day that Suu Kyi's widely criticized trial resumes. The U.N. chief's visit magnifies the international spotlight on the trial, which has

been delayed for a month but is expected to wrap up quickly after a final defense witness takes the stand Friday.

Ban acknowledged earlier this week that the two-day visit, which includes talks with the country's military leaders, will be "a very challenging one." It was not clear if he would be allowed to meet with Suu Kyi.

The 64-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner is charged with violating the terms of her house arrest when an uninvited Amer-

ican man swam secretly to her lakeside home and stayed for two days. She has pleaded not guilty but faces five years in prison if convicted.

The trial has prompted an outpouring of outrage from world leaders, Hollywood celebrities, Nobel laureates and human rights groups who say the junta is using the bizarre incident as an excuse to keep Suu Kyi behind bars through elections scheduled for 2010. Suu Kyi has been in detention for more than 13 of the last 19 years.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan pounds suspected Taliban targets, kills 4

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani warplanes bombed suspected militant hide-outs near the Afghan border early Friday, killing at least four insurgents and wounding seven others, intelligence officials said. The airstrikes hit targets in North Waziristan, where Taliban fighters killed 16 government troops in an ambush earlier this week, two intelligence officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. The fighting comes amid a government campaign against Taliban insurgents in North and South Waziristan, the lawless tribal region along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan where top Taliban and al-Qaida leaders are believed to be hiding.

China students upset over mandatory summer drills

BEIJING (AP)—Until last week, Alice Li's summer plans were simple: work part-time at a convenience store, study for graduate exams and go to the amusement park with friends. The upcoming celebration of 60 years of communist rule in China has changed all that. For many students in Beijing, the summer holidays will instead center

around government-mandated drills for an elaborate parade to mark the Oct. 1 event. Li, a third-year student at the Capital Institute of Physical Education, will have to quit her job and put everything else on hold to attend practice. For now, the sessions before class last only about half an hour—but will stretch to three when school lets out at the end of July.

Court decriminalizes gay sex in Indian capital

NEW DELHI (AP)—New Delhi's gay community celebrated a landmark court ruling Thursday that decriminalizes homosexuality—a decision that could end widespread police harassment and be a harbinger for gradual acceptance for homosexuals across this deeply conservative country. The Delhi High Court ruled that treating consensual gay sex between adults as a crime is a violation of fundamental rights protected by India's constitution. The ruling, the first of its kind in India, is not binding outside New Delhi. Hours after the ruling was issued dozens of members of New Delhi's gay community—some with rainbows painted on their faces and others holding signs that read "Queer and loving it"—gathered in the heart of the capital to celebrate.

World

French: Air France plane hit the sea belly first

LE BOURGET, France (AP)—Air France Flight 447 slammed into the Atlantic Ocean, intact and belly first, at such a high speed that the 228 people aboard probably had no time to even inflate their life jackets, French investigators said Thursday in their first report into the June 1 accident.

Likening the investigation to a puzzle with missing pieces, lead investigator Alain Bouillard said that one month after the crash, "we are very far from establishing the causes of the accident."

Problematic speed sensors on the Airbus A330-200 jet that have been the focus of intense speculation since the crash may have misled the plane's pilots but were not a direct cause, Bouillard said, while admitting that investigators are still a long way from knowing what did precipitate the disaster.

"The investigation is a big puzzle," said Bouillard, who is leading the probe for the French accident agency BEA. "Today we only have a few pieces of the puzzle which prevents us

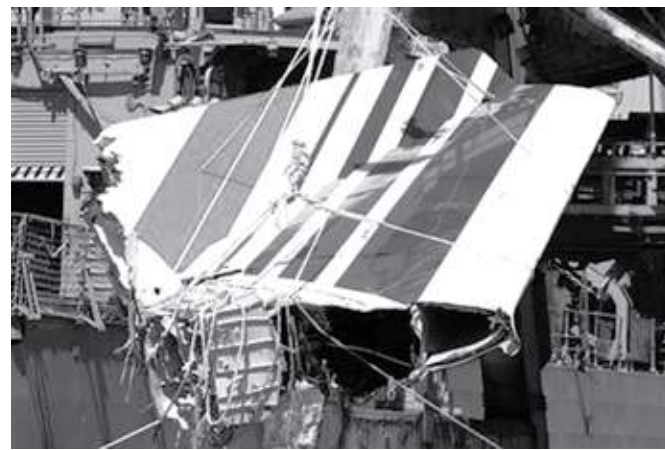
from even distinguishing the photo of the puzzle."

The plane was flying from Rio de Janeiro to Paris when it went down in a remote area of the Atlantic, 930 miles (1,500 kilometers) off Brazil's mainland and far from radar coverage.

The BEA released its first preliminary findings on the crash Thursday, calling it one of history's most challenging plane crash investigations. Yet the probe, which has operated without access to the plane's flight data and voice recorders, appears so far to have unveiled little about what really caused the accident.

The speed sensors, called Pitot tubes, are "a factor but not the only one," Bouillard said. "It is an element but not the cause," Bouillard told a news conference in Le Bourget outside Paris.

Other elements that came under scrutiny in the immediate aftermath of the crash, such as the possibility that heavy storms or lightning may have brought down the jet, were also downplayed in the BEA's presentation.



AP

Workers unload debris, belonging to crashed Air France flight AF447, from the Brazilian Navy's Constitution Frigate in the port of Recife, northeast of Brazil, Sunday, June 14, 2009.

FBI notes: Saddam Hussein sought familiar refuge

BAGHDAD (AP)—After the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Saddam Hussein stayed in Baghdad until he saw "the city was about to fall." Months later, he was caught hiding at the same farm where he had fled in 1959 after taking part in an attempt to kill the country's prime minister.

Unclassified FBI interviews conducted during his incarceration at a U.S. detention center offered new details Thursday about the late Iraqi dictator's life on the run—both before and after he was ousted.

The documents also confirm previous reports that Saddam falsely allowed the world to believe Iraq had weapons of mass destruction—the main U.S. rationale behind the war—because he feared revealing his weakness to Iran, the hostile neighbor he considered a bigger threat than the U.S.

Saddam was captured by American soldiers on Dec. 13, 2003, just over eight months after his regime was toppled by a U.S.-led invasion. An Iraqi tribunal convicted him of crimes against humanity, and he was hanged at the end of 2006.

He said he was never in the neighborhood on the outskirts of Baghdad that was bombed on March 19, 2003, in an at-

tempt to kill the Iraqi leader at the start of the war. The U.S. military had received a tip that he was hiding there.

Saddam made his last public appearance in Azamiyah on April 9, 2003, the day a bronze statue of him was brought down in a central Baghdad square in what became the defining image of his overthrow.

But, he said, he stayed in Baghdad until April 10 or 11 when "it appeared that the city was about to fall." He held a final meeting with leaders from his inner circle and told them, "We will struggle in secret."

Then he fled the capital, gradually shedding his bodyguards along the way to avoid attracting attention, telling them they had fulfilled their duty.



Hussein

WORLD BRIEFS

OAS chief says sanctions likely in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—A top diplomat said Thursday he is heading to Honduras to demand the return of the president toppled at gunpoint—a mission he said is likely to meet rejection, bringing diplomatic and economic punishment for the impoverished Central American nation. The head of the Organization of American States, Jose Miguel Insulza, said he plans to travel to Honduras on Friday to insist on the restoration of President Manuel Zelaya, who was ousted in a coup Sunday. "I will do everything I can. But I think it will be very hard to turn things around in a couple of days," Insulza said at a summit of Caribbean leaders in Georgetown, Guyana. "We are not going to Honduras to ne-

gotiate. We are going to Honduras to ask them to change what they have been doing."

African leaders agree to Libya-led AU changes

SIRTE, Libya (AP)—Concluding marathon talks held late into the night, African leaders agreed Friday to a Libyan-driven push to transform the African Union and in theory greatly extend its powers. The change was materialized by morphing the African Union's executive body, the commission, into an "African Authority." The draft document adopted at 4 a.m. at the AU summit of heads of states in Sirte, Libya, showed that the new Authority would simplify the AU's structure and boost its power over defense, diplomatic and international trade matters.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, July 4, 2009

Low-skilled OFWs are RP's top remitters

Filipinas who can be found in public parks in some East and Southeast Asian countries like Singapore and Hong Kong have made remittance outlets in those countries work extra hard.

This every-Sunday scene validates multiple-year government data showing that women working in household and service sectors, and men working

How to re-acquire, retain one's Philippine citizenship

If you are a natural-born Filipino who has acquired foreign citizenship by naturalization, you and your unmarried children who are under 18 are eligible to re-acquire Philippine citizenship. This is in accordance with Republic Act 9225. Listed below are the requirements and the procedure to obtain this dual citizenship:

The process to regain your Philippine citizenship has five requirements.

First, you must have completed an application form and requested to take the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines.

Next, you must produce evidence of former Philippine citizenship, such as a passport, birth certificate, Voter's ID, or Authenticated Marriage Contract. Other documents may be acceptable as well; check with your evaluating officer to be sure yours is acceptable.

Third, you must show proof that you have become a foreign citizen through naturalization by presenting your current passport and Certificate of Naturalization.

Fourth, produce four 2" by 2" photographs of yourself. Two must have the front view, and the other two must show opposing side views. All must have royal blue backgrounds.

Finally, if you are seeking dual citizenship for your children, you must also produce their birth certificates and one 2" by 2" front view photo with a royal blue background.

You must submit both original and copied versions of the required documents; the originals will be returned.

There are four steps in the procedure. First, the applicant must appear in person at the Consulate to file an application as well as a request to take the oath of allegiance.

Second, each applicant must pay \$50, and each beneficiary must pay an additional \$25.

Third, the applicant will be scheduled to take the oath.

Finally, the applicant will receive the certified true copy of the application and copies of the Oath of Allegiance, Identification Certificate, Order of Approval and Certification of reacquisition of Philippine citizenship, and supporting documents.

Source: Philippine Consulate General



In this Friday, June 19, 2009 photo, Alejandro Tejada, manager of Tenares Communications, a Western Union office in Passaic, N.J., holds up remittance checks, that were sent from foreign countries to immigrants in the United States.

ON THE NET

IMDI's policy brief on the occupations of overseas Filipinos can be downloaded at <http://depositfiles.com/files/sloy0ivjd>

in the production sector abroad—all referred to as low-skilled overseas workers—have been the Philippines's top remitters.

Women domestic workers, by the number, are also the topmost deployed overseas workers even if they earn smaller salaries and send home lesser amounts of remittances compared to other overseas workers.

A policy brief (downloadable at <http://depositfiles.com/files/sloy0ivjd>) by the non-profit Institute for Migration and Development Issues shows that male plant and machine operators and assemblers, male trades and related workers,

and female laborers and unskilled workers are the country's top remitters.

The policy brief packaged government-produced administrative and survey data on deployed overseas workers, registered permanent migrants, and remittances.

Citing the annual Survey on Overseas Filipinos of the National Statistics Office, IMDI's policy brief on the occupations of overseas Filipinos revealed that male plant and machine operators and assemblers have remitted PhP14.543 billion in 2007, from PhP7.927 billion in 2001. These workers were the top remitters from 2001 to 2004 and in 2007. (IMDB)

Q&A

Machine readable passports

What is a machine readable passport?

A machine readable passport is a travel document containing data that can be read both by the naked eye and by a machine/passport reader. It replaces hand-scripted passports.

MRPs contain the passport holder's information, including a photograph, with required biographical data printed in a standard format. This information is reflected in an area called the machine readable zone.

Why the change to an MRP?

In order to accelerate the processing of the increasing number of international travelers at ports of entry and exit, specifications for machine readable travel documents were published by the International Civil Aviation Organization in 1980.

A United Nations body with 190 member states including the Philippines, ICAO sets the standards for passports and other travel documents.

In July 2005, the format for MRPs specified by ICAO became the worldwide standard with a deadline of April 2010 for all travel documents to comply.

Pilot testing of the Philippine MRP was launched in June 2007, with full implementation of the new passport system on Sept. 17, 2007.

What are the benefits of an MRP?

Due to its standard layout and global recognition through the MRZ, information in MRPs can easily be distinguished and read by immigration officials.

This allows passengers to rapidly be identified and processed more quickly at international borders, resulting in less time required for indi-

vidual inspection.

MRPs also additional features such as special papers, designs, inks, and laminates, among others, making the travel documents more secure in comparison to hand-scripted passports.

Where can I get an MRP?

Only the Department of Foreign Affairs can issue passports.

The application will be processed at the Philippine Consulate General, and then the Consulate will send the processed Computer Generated Application Form to DFA-PICC for the actual issuance and printing of the passport. The DFA will send back to the Philippine Consulate the MRP for releasing to the applicant.

The issuance of the new Philippine maroon MRP requires a personal appearance at the Philippine Consulate both for the first-time applications and renewal for the purposes of fingerprinting and signature verification.

What are the requirements for the issuance of an MRP?

1. Appearing in person
2. Duly accomplished application form
3. Old passport, plus photocopy of first page
4. Report of birth (for first-time applicant)
5. Three colored photos with royal blue background

Applicants may be required to submit additional supporting documents. Contact the Philippine Consulate General in Saipan for more information.

Is there a new photo requirements for the issuance of an MRP?

Yes. The following requirements

should be met:

1. Photograph should be taken within the last 6 months.
2. Photograph size is 4.5 x 3.5 cm.
3. Background color should be royal blue.
4. Full frontal facial image.
5. Ears should be visible.
6. Image of the applicant should occupy approximately 70-80 percent of the photograph.
7. There should be at least 5mm-10mm space at the top photo between the edge of photo and the crown/head of person to allow for "cropping" of the photo at PICC.
8. Photograph should be printed on good quality photo paper, preferably matte.
9. Applicant's photograph should show him or her wearing decent attire, preferably with collar. For women, as long as the applicant with decent attire (No sleeveless/plunging neckline), the photo is acceptable.
10. Use of eye glasses is acceptable, provided there is no glare from the glasses and applicants' eyes are visible.
11. Use of head scarf for religious and medical reasons is allowed, however, the scarf should not cover the eyebrows or eyes.
12. When having their photos taken, applicants may smile. The "Mona Lisa" smile is recommended. Applicants' features should not be distorted by smiling on the photo.
13. Use of contact lenses for medical reasons is all right, provided the contact lenses do not change the applicant's true eye color.
14. Use of earrings for women is allowed, provided earrings are small. For men, the wearing of earrings is not allowed.
15. Photographs should be free ink marks, dirt, grease, finger prints and paste stains.
16. Do not use erasers or apply chemicals on the photo clean it.

Photos can be rejected for the following reasons

1. Distorted image—head is tilted or smile is too wide
2. Women—excessive makeup, big earrings
3. Men—wearing makeup, earrings
4. Colored contact lenses
5. Use of headgear other than scarf/veil for religious or health reasons
6. Use of dark eyeglasses/shades
7. Photos with "red eye" effect
8. Dirty photos/poor photo quality/poor or uneven lighting
9. Digitally altered photos (rendered with Photoshop or other imaging programs) or unnatural skin tones

How much is the fee for an MRP?

There has been no change in the fee. Regular passport processing is still \$50.

How long will it take to process my application?

In view of the transit time in sending passport applications to the Philippines and back, processing of the MRP will take up to six weeks.

For this reason, all applications for passport renewal should be filed well before expiration of the old passports. Passport renewal applications may be filed anytime when the passport to be replaced has only six to one and a half months remaining validity.

What will happen to the old green passport since it is not yet expired?

The green Philippine passport is still valid until the date of expiration.

For more information, contact the Philippine Consulate General at 234-1848 or visit the office at the fifth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan.

Source: Philippine Consulate General

Philippine ex-President Aquino in stable condition

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

MANILA, Philippines—Former President Corazon Aquino continues to fight and to provide hope and inspiration not only to her family but also to the nation, her youngest daughter said Thursday.

In a statement e-mailed to the Inquirer, actress and TV host Kris Aquino said she and her siblings were thanking the Filipino people for the prayers for their mother's healing.

The cancer-stricken Aquino remained in delicate but stable condition at Makati Medical Center, where she has been confined for over a week now for weakness and loss of appetite.

Kris arrived at the hospital early yesterday morning to keep watch over the former President, who has been moved from the intensive care unit to a regular room.

Earlier on Thursday, spokesperson Deedee Siyangco said Aquino was "happy" about the prayers being said for her recovery.

Siyangco spoke with the Inquirer on the phone before the second of the nine healing Masses for the 76-year-old Aquino and other cancer patients was celebrated at noon at Sto. Niño de Paz chapel in Greenbelt 5 in Makati City.

"She was smiling when her daughters told her about the healing Masses. She knows there's a novena and she's happy about it," said Siyangco, who was dressed in yellow, Aquino's signature color.

Prayer centers abroad

She said Aquino also smiled when told about the prayer centers set up by Filipino communities abroad.

Siyangco said Aquino's children were "coping," and that they were taking turns staying with their mother.

"As far as I know, [her condition] is still the same... Her children have been telling her about all the text messages coming in, the outpouring from all over the world. She knows that, and she's



In this file photo taken Sunday Aug. 17, 2008, cancer-stricken former Philippine President Corazon Aquino smiles to friends inside the church at the Ateneo de Manila University in suburban Quezon City, Philippines. Aquino has been admitted to a hospital in serious condition, her spokeswoman said Wednesday, July 1, 2009.

happy about it," Siyangco said.

Said Kris in the statement: "Our mother has been battling cancer with much courage for a year and a half.

"Her current hospitalization was necessary because of her loss of appetite, caused by fluid build-up in her stomach area.

"We remain in complete trust in God's infinite healing power.

"Our family wishes to thank the Filipino people for their prayers and outpouring of love and concern for our mother.

"She continues to be a woman of faith, a fighter, a source of hope and inspiration for all of us, not just her family but our entire nation as well.

"Just like she has always taught us by her life's example, we entrust everything to God."

Estrada et al.

Ex-President Joseph Estrada and his family, Pangasinan Rep. Jose

de Venecia and his wife Gina, and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim attended the Mass along with Aquino's close friends and associates.

Also present at the chapel were a number of her former staff, including Margie Juico and her husband Philip, Odette Ong, and former Interior Secretary Cesar Sarino, and legal advisers Justices Florida Ruth Romero and Magdangal Elma.

"We feel very sad [about the former President's condition]," Estrada told the Inquirer. "She's one woman who commands respect from every Filipino. Aside from her being a President, she's the most respected and most trusted."

During the Mass, Aquino was hailed not only as an "icon of democracy" but as an "icon of prayer power" by the officiating priest, Fr. Jun Sescon.

"She's an icon of prayer power because she has relied on the Lord

in all her struggles, in her personal life, in her family life, especially in her struggle for the country," Sescon said.

"We witnessed how she has never wavered. She really believes that God always provides. She never gave up. And that is an inspiration to all of us," he said.

'Don't lose hope'

Sescon called on the people to intensify their prayers for "Cory" and to have faith—just as she did when the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

Siyangco said she could not elaborate further on Aquino's condition, and reiterated that the former President was no longer being subjected to medical interventions.

She and Sescon also confirmed that Aquino's priest friends had administered the "anointing of the sick" to hasten her healing.

"Anointing of the sick is for those seriously ill, but not necessarily to the point of dying," Sescon stressed.

In a statement, Makati Mayor and United Opposition president Jejomar Binay called on city residents to hold prayer vigils for Aquino.

"President Aquino has given so much for the country. The least that we can do is to pray for her," said Binay, who was appointed by Aquino as acting mayor of Makati immediately after the EDSA Revolution.

'Forgiving' GMA

Even President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whom Aquino called on in 2005 to step down, has joined the country in praying for her, according to a Malacañang mouthpiece.

Anthony Golez, a deputy spokesperson of Ms Arroyo, opened his media briefing yesterday at a Manila restaurant with a request for a moment of silence for Aquino.

"We will constantly be in prayer for her speedy recovery

and we will also pray for strength and faith for her family, especially in their trying times," Golez told reporters.

Golez said it did not matter if Aquino was a constant critic of Ms Arroyo.

"The President is very forgiving," he said. "We cannot say that the President is insensitive. [She] is in prayer."

Just last month, Aquino sent a strongly worded message that was read by her grandson at a Makati rally against Charter change.

The rally was organized to protest the hurried passage of House Resolution No. 1109, which seeks to convene a Senate-less constituent assembly to amend the Constitution and possibly extend Ms Arroyo's stay in power.

Asked if the President had forgiven Aquino for her remarks, Golez said: "That specific, I don't know. But in a general sense, the President is very forgiving."

Imelda too

Imelda Marcos, whose reign as first lady during her husband's dictatorship was ended by the 1986 EDSA revolt that catapulted Aquino to power, marked her 80th birthday yesterday with a short prayer for Aquino.

"Cory Aquino is fighting

for her life. Let us pray for her health," The Associated Press quoted Imelda Marcos as saying before she bowed her head.

Last night at her grand bash at the Sofitel, she, again, asked her thousand or so guests for a minute of silence for Aquino.

The strongman's widow had derided Aquino more than once. In an interview only last month, she called Aquino a "usurper" and a "dictator."

US envoy

US Ambassador Kristie Kenney added her voice to the expressions of concern over Aquino's condition.

Interviewed over radio dzME's "Dos for Dos," Kenney said the American people were praying for Aquino's recovery and were inspired by her personal strength.

"My thoughts and prayers are very much with President Aquino and her family. She's been a strong person... for this country for so many years," the envoy said.

Kenney said the US Embassy had been sponsoring a Benigno Aquino fellowship in recognition of Aquino's and her husband's contributions to the country. (*Reports from Allison W. Lopez, Fe Zamora, Christian V. Esguerra and Cynthia D. Balana*)

Masbate town exec killed in ambush

By ABIGAIL KWOK
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—An official of a Masbate town was shot dead by unidentified suspects outside his home Thursday evening, a police spokesman said on Friday.

Michael Sivelleno, Sangguniang Bayan member of Placer town, was in his yard in Pa-

siagon village in the same town when he was approached by two suspects and shot several times at around 6:30 p.m., said Inspector Ayn Natuel, spokesman of Bicol region police.

The victim sustained multiple gunshot wounds that resulted to his death, Natuel said.

Recovered from the crime scene were 10 empty shells from a caliber .45 pistol.

Filipino rebels claim killing hundreds of troops

JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines said Thursday they have killed more than 500 government troops in 10 months of fighting since the collapse of peace talks, a claim the military dismissed as propaganda.

The 11,500-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front also accused government forces of deliberately burning 2,000 houses, killing villagers suspecting of supporting the guerrillas, bombing a mosque and blocking food for displaced residents.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Romero Brawner denied the rebel claims, calling them "pure, black propaganda."

The rebels are fighting for Muslim self-rule in the predom-

inantly Roman Catholic nation's south. There are no reliable independent casualty counts, but estimates of the death toll in fighting since the 1970s when the rebellion began range as high as 120,000.

Both sides have largely respected a 2003 truce, but clashes have resumed since the Philippine Supreme Court last August scrapped a preliminary peace deal that would have expanded an autonomous Muslim region on the main southern island of Mindanao.

Chief rebel negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said unrelenting military air and ground attacks have caused widespread destruction and suffering in predominantly Muslim communities, prompting his group to allow commanders to strike back at troops.

"We have tried to observe the cease-fire," Iqbal said. "But when they began to hit us, we have to hit back."

The military said it is targeting three rebel commanders who went on a deadly rampage in Christian communities after the self-rule deal was abandoned.

A 45-page rebel report seen by The Associated Press said at least 548 soldiers have died and 49 others have been wounded in the 10 months of fighting. In the biggest single-day loss, 78 army soldiers were killed in the Aug. 23 clash in Maasim township in Sarangani province, the report said. The military did not report any casualties that day.

The fighting in at least seven provinces has also killed at least 20 pro-government militiamen, 20 rebel fighters and 20 civil-

ians, the report said.

Both sides have reported conflicting numbers of casualties, accusing each other of fabricating figures.

Different military reports indicate a few dozen soldiers have been killed in the 10-month conflict, but Brawner said the military has tried to avoid announcing those figures and an estimate of rebels killed — although it does disclose all military fatalities to next-of-kin.

Brawner suggested that the rebel death toll was massive, saying on average each military airstrike killed 20 guerrillas. There have been several dozens air strikes in the past 10 months.

Last month, the military reported that 93 rebels were killed in just 12 days of fighting mostly in Maguindanao province.

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Self-quarantine: Arroyo out, Legarda in

MANILA, Philippines—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is A(H1N1) virus-free after all and ended her self-quarantine Thursday.

But Sen. Loren Legarda submitted herself on Thursday to a voluntary five-day quarantine shortly after returning from Switzerland.

Legarda told reporters that she showed no signs of the swine flu virus when she arrived at the Ninoy Aquino

International Airport early yesterday.

But she said it was best to follow the advice of the Department of Health for those returning from abroad to go on self-quarantine.

After close to two days of self-quarantine, Arroyo yesterday checked out of Asian Hospital and was back in Malacañang.

“President Macapagal-Arroyo checked out of Asian Medical Center at

around 2 p.m. (Thursday) with a clean bill of health,” press secretary Cerge Remonde said in a text to reporters.

While on quarantine at the hospital beginning Tuesday night, she underwent “certain checkups” and “all the results were OK,” Remonde said. From the hospital, Arroyo motored back to Malacañang.

Arroyo checked in at Asian Hospital on Tuesday night for a self-imposed

quarantine, a day after she arrived from a 13-day swing through Japan, Brazil, Colombia and Hong Kong, countries hit by the swine flu virus.

Before flying to Japan on June 17, she underwent an “annual gynecological checkup” at the same hospital.

Arroyo canceled her itinerary this week, beginning with Tuesday’s Cabinet meeting.

Legarda stayed in Geneva for two

weeks as she keynoted the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction then later spoke, along with former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and other heads of state, at the Global Humanitarian Forum, which dealt with the “human impact of climate change.”

From the airport, Legarda went straight to the Senate to make the announcement of her voluntary self-quarantine. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Imelda at 80: I feel vindicated

MANILA, Philippines (AFP)—Former First Lady Imelda Marcos turned 80 Thursday, claiming to be nearly broke but feeling vindicated more than two decades after her dictator husband was ousted in a popular revolt.

“I have reached the lucky number eight, for eight decades,” the flamboyant Marcos told AFP as she distributed rice to hundreds of poor residents at a dumpsite converted into a sprawling housing area in a Manila suburb.

“My birthday wish is that I be given more health and a longer life so I can devote myself to helping the Filipino poor,” she said.

Wearing a pink terno, jade earrings and sporting a large diamond ring, the woman known worldwide for her excessive lifestyle and 3,000 pairs of shoes still has something of a regal presence.

Her burly bodyguards jostled with a pack of press photographers as she waded through the crowd of supporters wanting merely to touch her.

“I have always been at peace with the truth,” she declared. “I feel vindicated because no court has convicted me.”

She said she is nearly broke after 23 years of “relentless persecution, vilification and ridicule” by the government, but remains happy that she has the support of her family and the poor.

Late husband and dictator Ferdinand Marcos was ousted by a “people power” revolt in 1986 which sent him into exile in Hawaii. He died in 1989 and Imelda and his children were later allowed to return home.

In 1992, Imelda Marcos launched a failed bid for the presidency, but her children have since regained political control in their northern bailiwick.

While her husband is accused of plundering the national coffers of an estimated \$10 billion, no member of the family has been convicted or jailed.

Scores of criminal and civil cases however remain pending in courts.

So far, only \$683 million stashed in Swiss banks has been recovered by the government.

The fight to gain control of the Marcos wealth has in recent months focused on \$310 million in Imelda’s confiscated jewellery. Confusion arose last month after the government said the jewels would be returned to Imelda, only to backtrack after a public outcry.

“That decision was vindication already to me. These are beautiful historical treasures that they should return,” she said defiantly Thursday.

She said she bears no grudges toward arch foe Corazon Aquino, widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino, who was swept to the presidency in 1986 after Marcos was toppled.

Mrs. Corazon Aquino, 76, has been hospitalized since last week with colon cancer and is said to be in a serious condition.

“I asked all these people to offer prayers to her. I have peace in my heart and am comfortable with the truth. I am praying for her safe recovery,” Marcos said.



Former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos, right, appreciates a picture given to her by former Indonesian First Lady Deewy Sukarno during her 80th birthday party at an hotel in suburban Manila, Philippines on Thursday July 2, 2009.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

US envoy sees GMA-Obama meeting this year

MANILA, Philippines—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and United States President Barack Obama are expected to have a one-on-one meeting in Washington before the end of the year, US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney said Thursday. Interviewed over dzME’s “Dos for Dos” program, Kenney said the meeting with the Philippine head of state usually happens in the first year of the term of a US president. She denied that Obama was deliberately avoiding meeting Ms Arroyo as insinuated by critics here because of her low popularity rating among Filipinos. “She was the first Southeast Asian leader President Obama spoke to after his election. She was the first one he spoke to after his inaugural [address],” Kenney said. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Hayden’s ma told to answer libel rap

MANILA, Philippines—The Quezon City prosecutors Office ordered on Thursday the mother of Dr. Hayden Kho to reply to the libel complaint filed against her by actress Katrina Halili. Irene Kho, the mother of the contro-

versial cosmetic doctor, did not show up yet again at the preliminary investigation of Halili’s complaint. Assistant city prosecutor Rafael Villordon directed Kho’s lawyer, Paolo Pataja, who appeared on her behalf, to submit the counter-affidavit on or before July 9. He also required that Irene Kho be physically present when she submits the counter-affidavit and swear to it personally. Halili and Hayden Kho, who is her ex-lover, are locked in a high-profile court battle after a sex video of the two having sex circulated in the Internet. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Pacquiao leads star-studded MMFF

It’s a virtual showdown of stars in this year’s Metro Manila Film Festival. Bayani Fernando, chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, which spearheads the film fest, describes this year’s event as the “most star-studded in years.” He dubbed it “the blockbuster festival” because of the crowd drawers who would compete at the box office when the MMFF kicks off in December. Among the big stars with entries are Dolphy and Willie Revillame in “Juan”; Sharon Cuneta in “Mano Po 6”; Bong Revilla in “Pan-

day”; Vic Sotto in “Ang Darling Kong Aswang”; and Manny Pacquiao in “Wapakman.” Boxing champ Pacquiao’s leading lady in the science-fiction flick is Pussycat Dolls’ Nicole Scherzinger. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

OFW saved from Kuwait execution makes appeal

KIDAPAWAN CITY—A stream of relatives and neighbors, all wanting to hug her, welcomed Mae Vecina in the village of Kilada in Matalam, North Cotabato, at a homecoming that the overseas Filipino worker didn’t think was possible following her death sentence in Kuwait. At the back of her mind, however, are thoughts of what she left behind in the Kuwaiti jail where she had spent some of the most harrowing days of her life -- five Filipinos who are in death row. People in Kilada greeted her with food and a simple thanksgiving party. “Everyone was emotional. The hugging seemed endless,” said one relative of the “instant family reunion.” Vecina arrived at the Davao International Airport where her husband Leo and children, Queeny and King James, were waiting. They traveled for more than two hours to their home in North Cotabato. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

TAKE CHARGE

Aim to retire with no debts

Editor’s Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: After working hard in the corporate world for more than 30 years, I am looking forward to retiring at an early age, 55, so I can relax. I am in the retail industry, and sometimes work would include weekends over the years. I want to have more time for my family and myself when I retire—and that’s about 10 years from now. What are the things I should prepare and aim for in time for my retirement?—Gloria

Answer: Retirement is a wonderful time. Indeed, after working for most of your life, you can look forward to a time that is more laid-back, when you can do what you want provided you have the means to do so.

That’s the key to having an enjoyable retirement: having a nest egg that is enough to meet your needs for the lifestyle you want.

Have you figured out how much you will need to have at retirement? In a nutshell, it may be the amount you spend today, minus bills for your children’s education and home mortgage, adjusted for inflation.

That is assuming you have some added protection already in place such as health and hospitalization insurance.

Otherwise, you have to add the cost of health care too, which may become more expensive as one grows older.

And because you will have no active income coming in at retirement, there’s one other important thing you need to do: Wipe out those debts in time for retirement.

Aim to retire debt-free. It will free you up from worrying where to get the money to pay your debts. You will also have more money to use for your day-to-day needs.

From now until the time you retire, do these simple steps to debt reduction:

1 List down all your debts. These include car loan, housing loan, even credit card debts and personal loans from family and friends.

2 Make a payment plan. See how many years you have to pay off your loans. If one loan will take more than 10 years (your planned retirement schedule), talk to your creditor and ask if they can give better payment terms for a shorter payment period.

3 Prioritize paying off the debt with the highest interest. Then pay off the next debts on your list, until they all become zero.

4 Avoid incurring new debt while paying off existing debts.

5 Pare down your current expenses and use freed up money for debt payment. Look at your spending and see which expenses are not really necessary or can be foregone.

6 Look for ways to raise more cash and use the money to pay debts. Sell your unused stuff on the Internet—your “garbage” may be someone else’s treasure, as they say. Find a sideline you enjoy doing and which you can do even with a hectic job (examples: selling, baking).

7 Stay committed to paying off all your debt. It may take years, but attaining your goal of going into retirement debt-free is worth it.

8 Continue to save for retirement. Once you have paid off all your debts (or even while doing so), set aside money to add to your retirement nest egg. It may mean you’ll need to live simply to achieve that, but the returns—both financial and emotional—will be good for you.

On another note, although you want to retire from corporate life early, you might want to consider not retiring from work altogether.

Given that man’s life span is longer now than it used to be, there is a possibility you might live up to 80 or beyond—that’s an additional 25 years from your retirement age.

Would your retirement fund be enough to sustain your lifestyle for 25 years or more? Working, even part-time, may help you live to the fullest in your sunset years.

It will also keep your mind sharp. Aside from that, you will be helping other people by sharing your knowledge and skills in the workplace. Think about it. If you retire debt-free, working will be more a joy than a necessity. We wish you the best!

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Diet collapses, now out of danger

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Diether Ocampo collapsed before the Star Magic event in Los Angeles last Saturday. He was rushed to the hospital and remained unconscious for a few hours.

Thank God he's now out of danger. Diet sent me this text when I checked on him: "Doctor said it's my heart condition. Over-fatigue caught up on me. Thanks, Sweets."

Good thing when it comes to love matters, Diet's heart is in tiptop shape now that it's with his GF Rema.

Happier as friends

Jomari Yllana is excited to work again with his ex, Aiko Melendez. "We will play the parents of Angelina, the bratty character of Ogie Alcasid in Angelina and Yaya," he says. "I've long been praying for a good comedy role, that's why I'm happy this project came." Won't sparks fly in the set? "Aiko and I have reached a certain point where we are both comfortable, so why should we complicate things by letting emotions get in the way? We are both happier now as good friends." When love fails, friendship prevails.

Nasty messages?

Cristine Reyes is irked about RR Herrera's comments that she should stop sending him nasty messages. They had a falling out when they were working in "Banana Split."

"I never thought this would be such a big issue," she says. "I left the show already so sana tama na. Nananahimik na ako. Pero minsan sobra na." By now, Cristine ought to know that show

biz and intrigues go together well. You can't have one without the other.

No comment

Dingdong Dantes is mum about Zsa Zsa Padilla's statement that she would rather not confront him about his breakup with her daughter Karylle.

"No comment" he quips. Some questions are better left unanswered. Silence is sometimes the best defense.

Baron meets Pacman

Baron Geisler is raring to work with Manny Pacquiao in a forthcoming movie. "I'm gonna ask him to sign my boxing gloves," says Baron. "I will ask Pacman how he feels before and after every fight. Bibiruin ko at hihingi ako ng balato." Will the barfly in Baron also ask San Miguel Beer's endorser for a truckload of booze?

After Paolo

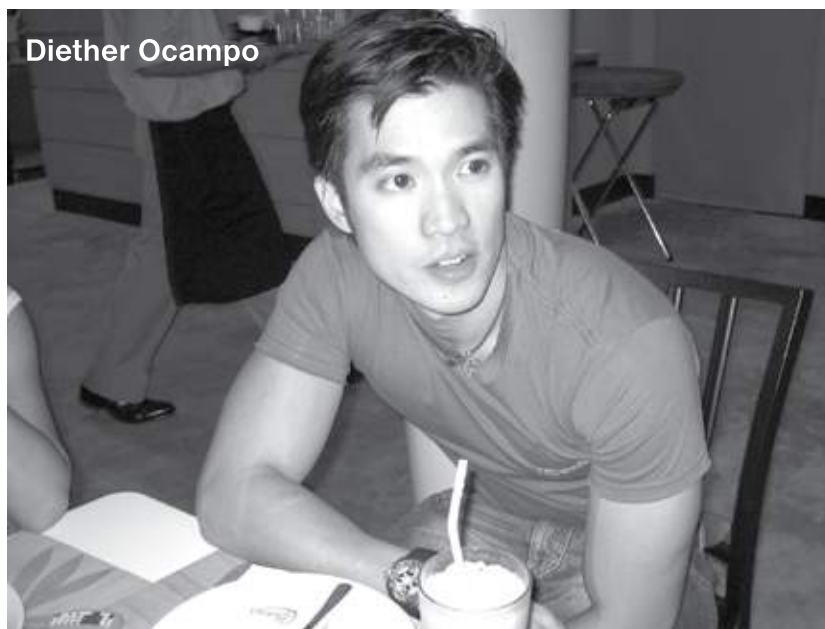
Even if Abby Cruz and Paolo Bediones have not admitted their split-up, a common friend told me that Abby's new crush is Piolo Pascual.

PJ's pic is her cell phone's wallpaper. From Papa Paolo to Papa Piolo?

New 'bride'

After winning her first movie acting award, Anne Curtis makes a big TV comeback in ABS-CBN's "The Wedding" with Derek Ramsay and Zanjoe Marudo (weeknights on Primetime Bida).

She plays a rich girl who dreams of the perfect wedding with her dream guy (Derek) who has to leave for the States. After finding out that her parents' marriage is falling apart, she devises a scheme to make her folks stay



Diether Ocampo

together—get engaged with someone they will never approve of (Zanjoe).

What's Anne's real-life dream wedding? "I like it to be intimate, outdoors during sunset," she says. Isn't she wary that Derek's GF Angelica Panganiban and Zanjoe's GF Mariel Rodriguez might get jealous of her? "They both have nothing to worry about," she quips. "We all hang out together. I would not do anything to ruin our friendship." Friends who party together, stay together.

Guess who

This actress was supposed to be in a movie which will be shown during the Metro Manila Film Festival. But she declined when she found out that she might be upstaged by a hot love team she would be working with. Actresses like her who can't have enough of the spotlight should be ready when the

lights stop shining on them. From spotlight to stop light!

Healthy rivalry

Kris Bernal and Aljur Abrenica top-bill their first prime time series, "All My Life," weeknights before "24 Oras" on GMA 7. It's about the intertwined lives of two young people separated by tragedy but joined together by destiny.

Isn't Aljur wary of the Gerald Anderson-Kim Chui love team? "It's healthy competition," he says. "I'm happy for their success. May sarisariili kaming mga pangarap na gusto naming matupad."

How is he now after the sexual harassment issue with a fan? "I learned that there must be a limit to everything," he says. "Pero di naman ako nagbago sa mga fans ko. Medyo may limit lang sa trust na binibigay ko."

Trust shouldn't go to trash.

Exclusive screening

After its successful screening at the Barcelona Asian Film Festival, "Dose" will have a one-week exclusive engagement starting Wednesday until July 7 at Robinsons Galleria. The movie stars Yul Servo, Emilio Garcia and Fritz Archie Chavez.

The full trailer, which had been "X"-rated by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, can be viewed on YouTube ("Dose Cinema One," with over 250,000 hits so far). It's a heartwarming film, written and directed by my brilliant friend Sennedy Que, about a gay boy's coming of age.

Que magnifico! "Dose" will give you the right dose of provocation.

50th year

Regal Entertainment celebrates its 50th anniversary with an air of royalty—a movie featuring one of its most successful Regal Babies, Judy Ann Santos, and Ogie Alcasid in "OMG (Oh My Girl!)"

"Juday made it big in 'Sana Naman'," recalls Mother Lily. "I'd like to think that was her launching movie with Regal. She never gave me any headaches because she's so professional."

Juday plays a famous actress while Ogie portrays her personal assistant disguised as a woman so they could rekindle their lost friendship. "The drunken scene of Juday cracked me up," says Ogie. "It was so out of character!"

Can he now officially call Regine Velasquez his "OMG" and make her his wife since his ex Michelle Van Eimeren is set to marry her Australian BF? "Pass muna ako," Ogie pleads. He is emotionally ready and willing but legally unable to answer.

'Katrina, Aljur deserve a break'

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CEBU CITY, Philippines—Speaking to the local press, Felipe L. Gozon, chair, president and chief executive officer of GMA 7, defended the network's talents Katrina Halili and Aljur Abrenica who are currently embroiled in sex scandals.

Halili's sex video with cosmetic surgeon Hayden Kho was leaked on the Internet and distributed through bootleg

DVDs. Abrenica was slapped with a sexual harassment suit by a minor.

Gozon said he sympathized with Halili. "What happened to Katrina was unfair. She wasn't at fault. She just fell in love. Why punish her for that? At least now, she knows that what happened was wrong." Halili was recently tapped to play the contravida in the upcoming soap opera "Rosalinda."

The basis for hiring Halili was competence, not her involvement in a controversy, Gozon explained. "Why deprive her of projects? Katrina is a good contravida. The past shows where she played the villainess ('Darna,' 'Marimar') were top-raters."

He said the network is fully behind Halili in her quest for justice. "We are not a law office, but we are supporting her, morally. We believe she's the aggrieved party and she has every right to complain."

Gozon issued a memorandum to network employees, instructing them not to download the sex videos from the Net.

He said he followed Abrenica's case with great interest, too.

"I didn't get to talk to Aljur because he left for the United States. But I asked our people to investigate the matter and when I read the report ... as a lawyer I knew Aljur didn't do anything wrong."

But if it's a private quarrel, like that of executive Wilma Galvante and manager Annabelle Rama, he refuses to meddle.

"If you leave them alone, they're able to resolve matters themselves. But if one of our talents gets involved in a lawsuit with outsiders, I take a look into it."

The head of the Kapuso channel aims to be an "approachable and transparent" leader.

He said he traveled to Cebu because he wanted to strengthen the network's position in the regions.

That's why GMA 7 is courting Cebuanos, he said. "We're doing it, not only by promoting our shows, but also by extending the Kapuso brand of public service."

The Kapuso fans' day, held in SM City Cebu last Saturday, not only featured network stars, but also booths that provided various services from agencies like the National Bureau of Investigation, Philhealth, the Commission on Elections, the Department of Health and the National Statistics Office.

Being fit boosts Bea's confidence

By **MARINEL CRUZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Very amusing, but worrisome. That was how actress Bea Alonzo described rumors that she had also been victimized by the Hayden Kho sex video scandal—allegedly recorded using a spy camera while she was dressing up in one of the clinics of the Belo Medical Group.

Bea got worried when news of the rumor spread and started affecting the lives of her family.

The Belo Group, which Bea endorses, recently released a statement denying the video's existence.

"My family and supporters have nothing to worry about. I have no sex video," Bea told Inquirer Entertainment last weekend. "Direk Lauren (Dyogi, 'Betty La Fea' director) has confronted me about it. He advised me to defend myself by speaking publicly about it."

Bea recently renewed her talent contract with the Kapamilya network. The actress is set to do three movies for Star Cinema, ABS-CBN's movie arm. She's currently filming "And I Love You So" with Sam Milby. A film with John Lloyd Cruz is also in the works.

Slimming down

Bea had to lose weight—all of 15 pounds—for "And I Love You So," where she gets to wear a two-piece bikini for the first time.

To keep fit, Bea used to attend dance classes and Bikram Yoga, which is ideally practiced in a room heated to 40° C. She said she has also stopped eating rice for a month now.

"I know I could carry on with this diet," said Bea. "My friend Angelica (Panganiban, actress) hasn't been eating rice for eight years. Idol ko s'ya. I eat boiled eggs and bananas, and a lot of fresh fruits. I'm planning to work out in a gym soon. I agreed to be Ate Kris' (Aquino) gym buddy."

Bea added that "being fit boosts your confidence. A few months back, when I was still doing 'Betty la Fea,' I didn't think I'd muster enough courage to wear a two-piece bikini in any movie. I had a full figure then. My character, Betty, is on the heavy side. I had to work hard to lose the extra weight."

Her new movie called for Bea to bare some skin. "My character wants to break free from a monotonous life," Bea said, "so she drops everything and goes to the beach."



Katrina Halili

Maharlika – Opinyon

Kanong Pinoy on the Fourth of July

Where I grew up, Kano refers to Americano, the Caucasian from the United States. Pinoy used to refer to the street-smart Filipino, at first a pejorative term referring the low economic and therefore, social class, happy-go-lucky vulgar street urchin who never grew up, the kanto (street corner) boy.

"Pinoy" has since been transformed to the street-smart, worldwide Filipino, and is used as a badge of honor in some circles, in the same way that "nigger" got transformed into a word of pride among associates on the south side of Chicago where Barack Obama was a community organizer!

It used to be that Filipinos aspired to be Americans. A Hawaiian-born professor at the University of Hawaii of Ilocano parents never learned to speak his parent's language but in the late '90s, he publicly confessed that he deliberately ignored the language in order to speak fluent English, but of course, he still spoke it like a full-blood Ilocano. Since the Ilocano calls himself a "Cano," the professor got his wish! During Marcos' years, there was even a mass movement to make the Pea Eye the 51st State of the Union.

Something has happened so that the "Filipino-American" designation that once meant for the word "Filipino" to be the modifier has since made a turn to the reverse. Thus, the title of *Kanong Pinoy*: the "Americano" modifies "Pinoy" rather than the other way around.

EDITORIAL

Independence day

When the United States occupied Iraq, the Bush administration claimed it was not only out to liberate Iraq from rogue-nation status, but it was embarking on tutoring the Iraqis in self-government, making them an example of democratization that would inspire shock and awe in the Middle East.

Instead, Iraq was swept up in an orgy of looting and violence, and what was supposed to be a national outpouring of joy and relief on the part of Iraqis grateful for their liberation turned out to be a nightmarish spiral of guerrilla warfare and terrorist attacks.

Central to the problem was resistance to the presence of American forces and the difficulties involved in long-simmering ethnic tensions erupting, with the new Iraqi government viewed as little more than a puppet regime.

The United States proved itself once more not just ambivalent, but hostile, to the idea of taking up what Rudyard Kipling had called "the White Man's Burden," urging America to hold on to the Philippines at the turn of the 20th century put it.

At the turn of the 21st century, American public opinion mobilized even more quickly to express dissatisfaction with the idea of taking on the responsibilities of tutelage.

Both the conquest of the Philippines and Iraq had been accompanied by flag-waving and jingoism, but in both cases public enthusiasm soured after the military victory.

Still, the lesson of the occupation can be gleaned from the photos and videos of Iraqis of all ages engaged in celebration, although foreign observers like.

The New York Times pointed out that these scenes, as they played out on Iraqi state media, dated back to 2003 and represent a now-vanished Iraq. Still, the sentiments, though exaggerated by state media, were surely there: Iraqis certainly celebrated -- in their hearts, if not in the streets -- the formal withdrawal of American and British forces from their cities.

Though still limited, they celebrated the formal return of their sovereignty.

We have been down this road before, with the Americans perceiving themselves as liberators but seemingly overwhelmed by the forces of destruction and native division they unleashed. But at the end of that road comes self-determination.

This reminds us of what Sergio Osmeña said concerning not just the formality but the substance of independence.

"The building of a free and sovereign nation is, however, as difficult as the overthrow of foreign rule, whether by violent or peaceful means." And as he asked generations ago, "Of what use is freedom and sovereignty, and independence, if we cannot preserve and maintain them, and if we cannot bring security, happiness and prosperity to our people?"

This is the dilemma, or rather, the challenge that faces the Iraqi people and those they have elected to be, essentially, their transitional leaders on the road to resuming their independence. They must build a civil society, restore a wrecked economy, institute and nurture political and legal institutions, and find a way forward from the dark history of Saddam's dictatorship and the American occupation.

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President Marcos allowed American professional basketball players dual citizenship so that they could play in the local teams. When Cory rewrote the Constitution, a line said, "dual citizenship shall be inimical to the interest of the State." Already an American citizen then, I nevertheless carried a Philippine passport until 1991, for though the United States does not encourage dual citizenship, it recognizes the citizenship of countries that does. There are 60 countries that allow dual citizenship with the United States.

However, present when the Peoples' Power metamorphosed, and supportive of its consequent effect, I did not bother renewing my passport to comply with the sentiments of the Cory Constitution. Then came RA 9225 of 2003, declaring former natural-born Filipino citizens who acquired foreign citizenship through naturalization not to have lost their Philippine citizenship.

The Philippines celebrates the Fourth of July as its Philippine-American Friendship Day. One will recall that the Philippine Commonwealth was finally granted independence by the U.S. on this day in 1946. President Diosdado Macapagal, however, in the resurgent Indo-Malay consciousness of the promising MAPHILINDO movement (Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia) that tried re-appropriating their common heritage, short-lived when frowned upon by previous colonials, declared the Aguinaldo raising of the flag in Cavite on June 12, 1898, as the proper date to commemorate the nation's Independence Day. The fourth of July became American-Philippine Friendship Day! It is well to recall events that led to that day.

On Feb. 18, 1946, the U.S. Congress passed the infamous Rescission Act, removing benefits and entitlements for Filipino WWII veterans by stating "their military service were not deemed active." It did not matter that resistance in the Philippines was very active. Gen. MacArthur even used the islands' record to argue against leap-frogging the archipelago, as recommended by the Joint Staff. Of all 66 nationalities that served the U.S. flag in WWII, only the Filipino was excluded from recognition and benefits common to all other veterans by this Act.

Adding insult to injury, the U.S. Congress passed the Bell Trade Act

Harrison on Filipino lawmakers

Today, July 4, is the Independence Day of the United States and, if not for Diosdado Macapagal's timely intervention, it would have been Philippine Independence Day too instead of June 12.

There is a minority that to this day refuse to accept the Filipino declaration of independence from Spain from the window of Emilio Aguinaldo's house on June 12, 1898 as the proper date of our independence. For these people our independence should still be July 4, 1946, when the US finally "recognized" the independence of the Philippine Islands. As a compromise, July 4 is still celebrated in the country as Philippine-American Friendship Day.

The debate on whether we should remember June 12 or July 4 seems trivial and irrelevant today, but it illustrates the way in which the past relates to the present, or how history forms people into a nation.

Significant dates, events and people we tend to forget. This is why we have an aid to memory in street names. If you look at Makati, you will notice that the posh districts, with the exception of Forbes Park (named after US Governor William Cameron Forbes who is also remembered in a Manila street often pronounced "Por-bes"), relate to the history of Spain in the Philippines: Magallanes is Ferdinand Magellan; [Miguel Lopez de] Legazpi was the first governor general of the Philippines, founder of Spanish Manila; [Andres de] Urdaneta was the Augustinian friar who served as pilot of the Legazpi expedition, and [Gomez Perez de] Dasmariñas was the seventh governor general of the Philippines who was murdered by Chinese mutineers. There is a unity in Makati's street names and names of districts that have been disturbed by some changes, like Buendia which is now Puyat and Pasay Road which is now Arnaiz. Fortunately, people still refer to these by their old names.

If only memory can be more persistent in older places like Manila and Intramuros where the order and sense of street names have been upset by shortsighted changes. Worse, some of the personages memorialized are not even historically significant.

There was an unsuccessful move to rename España Avenue in Manila on the grounds that we should not remember four centuries of subjugation under Spain. Fortunately, there was a deed of donation for the land that stipulates that the avenue should be named España.

The two other Manila streets constantly threatened with change are Taft and Harrison. Both were US governors-general in the Philippines. Both are historically significant.

Francis Burton Harrison (1873-1957) is best remembered today by F. B. Harrison Street or Harrison Plaza. He served as governor

on July 2, 1946, prohibiting the Philippines from manufacturing or selling any products that might "come into substantial competition" with U.S.-made goods; it required that the Philippine constitution be revised to grant U.S. citizens and corporations equal access to Philippine minerals, forests and other natural resource. The U.S. State Department itself opposed the terms of the Act, with an official describing the law as "clearly inconsistent with the basic foreign economic policy of this country" and a betrayal of "our promise to grant the Philippines genuine independence."

The fourth of July came with onerous terms including U.S. dictated rather than negotiated sovereignty over military bases. But it is the Rescission Act that grates. Present in D.C. in '97 when veteran Baclig chained himself to the White House gate because the Clintons who publicly supported rescinding the Rescission Act were not getting anywhere, I was pleased but I was more familiar and appalled at the veterans who congregated daily on Bishop Street in downtown Honolulu while they stretched their SSI benefits.

The newly enacted Obama stimulus package 63 years later includes a one-time cash payment of \$9K for non-U.S. citizen and \$15K for U.S. citizen veterans. Claimants have a year to extend their shriveled hands to the dole. They are expected to be grateful!

Fourth of July on Saipan is billed as Liberation Day. Our local historian Don Farrell calls it an invasion; Operation Forager assumed all local parties to be hostile. Everyone afterwards lived in internment camps for a couple of years, only that the indigenous population was kept separate from the Ryukyus, Kokuryus, and Yamatos.

It is possibly best that we return to the historical reality with dignity and self-respect, for the notion of being liberated had developed acts of brown nosing passed up as gratitude. Dependence on the dole and the federal largesse has made us a people cuffed to a Marianas Trench-deep trough.

If America represents the home of the brave and land of the free, then let the dependable *tao tao tano* who fructifies the earth, and the adventurous *tao tao tasi* who sails uncharted waters, be brave in wrestling the economic crisis down, and freely sail the unknown horizons once more. Before ConGen Maximo departed, he made sure I could renew my passport again. Tell Greg, *Kanong Pinoy*s are not far behind!



By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

general from 1913 to 1921 and served as a consultant to a string of Philippine presidents, starting with Manuel L. Quezon.

Harrison wrote out his memories and impressions in the book "The Cornerstone of Philippine Independence: A narrative of seven years" (1921). I picked it off the shelf, hoping to find something relevant for Philippine-American Friendship Day but was caught by a chapter on Filipino lawmakers that makes us compare the past with the present:

"All of the members of both houses, except those appointed for the non-Christian territories, are highly educated men, and for the most part are university graduates. There are as yet very few members educated by the American public school system and, consequently, the debates

are always in Spanish. English will come into use as the younger men come into the front. Representative Eulogio Benitez, in the session of 1920, made the first speech ever delivered from the floor of the House. The manners of the members are above reproach, and the presiding officers are seldom obliged to order the participants in a debate. The speeches are eloquent, and often full of allusions to history and literature. In fact, the Anglo-Saxon must often bewail the fact that the oratorical talent of the Filipino is so much more pronounced than his own. Even among the schoolboys, and in the remote provinces one usually hears a more eloquent public speech than the average American can achieve. It must be admitted, however, that in this nation of orators the chaff is,

by the audience, usually separated from the wheat, and mere histrionic oratory accompanies little more than entertainment."

Harrison then enumerates the defects of the Philippine Legislature then which he optimistically thought could be corrected because they were borne of inexperience.

First was the habit of voting with the leader, with a minority weak in numbers and uncertain of its rights.

Then there was the habit of not publishing bills during and after passage so that there is little or no public debate or reaction to the new laws.

Harrison said the worst habit of the legislature then was the practice of withholding most the measures till the last night of legislative session to avoid debate and opposition.

Thus, "many members in those last crowded and exciting hours, hardly know what they have passed or what they are voting upon."

Reading Harrison today, 82 years since the book first saw print, can only emphasize the continuing relevance of the past. It is hoped that F.B. Harrison Street will remain for a long time.

Comments are welcome aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Maharlika–Samu’t Sari



NEWS BRIEFING

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, right, say they look forward to the realization of Neo Gold Wings Paradise’s \$1 billion casino and resort project, which had its groundbreaking yesterday afternoon on Tinian. Also in the photo is Coastal Resources Management director Dr. John Joyner, standing, in a news briefing Thursday on Capital Hill.



WIC DONATES TO KARIDAT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is required by federal regulations to annually transact compliance buys on a minimum of 5 percent of all authorized WIC vendors. According to Fabian Ulloa, the WIC Vendor Coordinator, based on its regulations on compliance buys, “...the final disposition of all items are to be destroyed, donated, provided to other authorities, or kept as evidence.” WIC director Josephine Tudela said the WIC Program opted to donate the healthy food items, which included reduced fat & soy milk, cheese, eggs, 100 percent juice (frozen and liquid), sardines, tuna, dry and baby cereal, dried beans, brown rice, wheat bread, and peanut butter from the buys to Karidat, for the women, infants and children living at Guma Esperanza. Posing with Karidat’s executive director Angie Deleon, center, is WIC staff Irene Sigrah, left, and Karidat’s Judy Pangelinan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday to Ayana Cristel Nunez who celebrated her 3rd birthday last Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at the Kilili Beach Pavilion. We love you NaNa! Greetings come from your mom Ann and dad Cris.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday celebrant Joe Espinosa.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated birthday greetings to Jose “Joe “ Espinosa, seated right second row, and Vicky T. Ladia, standing third from left, who jointly celebrated their birthdays on Saturday, June 27, 2009 in As Lito, Saipan. They are shown here posing with friends and relatives. Greetings coming from relatives and friends.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday celebrant Vicky T. Ladia.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TOP PERFORMER

Hawaii’s Board of Education awarded Madeline Germain M. Taisacan with a recognition diploma cum laude in recognition of her superior achievement during the graduation ceremony held on June 6, 2009, at the James Campbell High School. Taisacan will be joining the U.S. Army as an aviation operations specialist, according to her proud parents, Richard E. and Connie M. Taisacan of Rota and grandma Lucy B. Camacho of Saipan. Taisacan left for basic training in Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, on June 22, 2009.



BON VOYAGE

Bon voyage to Cesar Pantaleon, who left the CNMI yesterday, Friday, to go back home to the Philippines for good. After 19 years of working here he has decided to leave Saipan and go home to take care of his family. From the Sto. Nino Group of Saipan, we wish you good luck, good health, and God bless you.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cesar Pantaleon, seated left, second row, pose for a group picture with some members of the Sto. Nino Group during his farewell party held last Thursday at the residence of Alex Nario in Koblerville, Saipan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

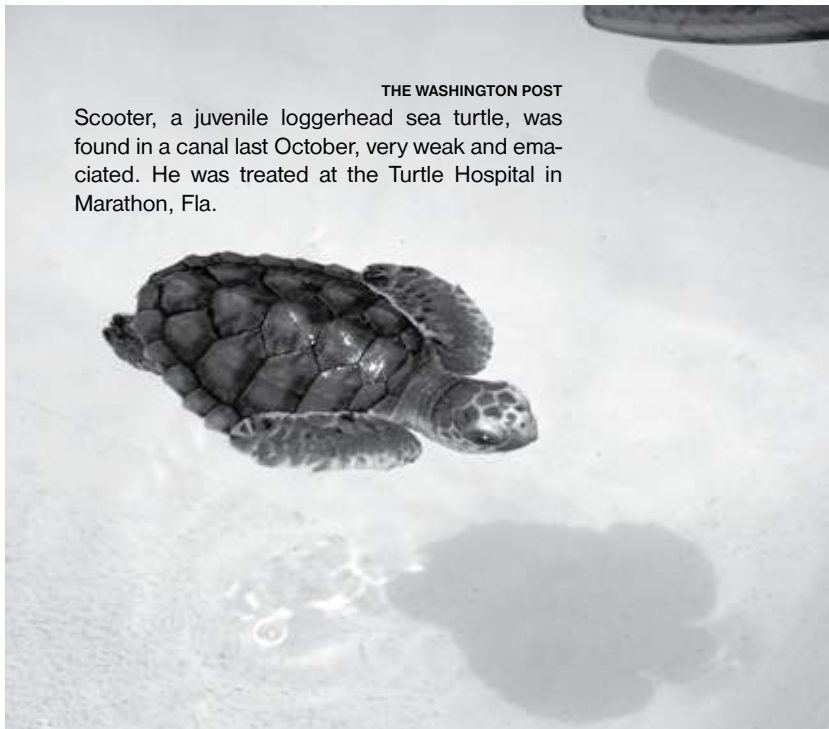
Happy birthday to grandpa Mitch Tomokane, who is celebrating his special day today, July 4. We miss you! Greetings come from the Tomokanes in Boise.

Youngstyle

What happens when a sea turtle gets sick

By GLENN PATERSON
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Did you hear the one about the sea turtle that checked herself into the hospital? It's no joke. It really happened at the Turtle Hospital in Marathon, Fla.



THE WASHINGTON POST
Scooter, a juvenile loggerhead sea turtle, was found in a canal last October, very weak and emaciated. He was treated at the Turtle Hospital in Marathon, Fla.

The Turtle Hospital is dedicated to helping sick and injured sea turtles. Sometimes, sea turtles get injured by boats or they get bellyaches after eating trash that people threw into the ocean. Others turtles get bitten by sharks or catch viruses.

When that happens in the Florida Keys, the staff of the Turtle Hospital races to the rescue. The hospital even

Animal Hazards Fact

Plastic shopping bags sometimes end up as litter in streams and rivers. To limit the use of these bags, stores in the District of Columbia may soon begin charging 5 cents for each one!

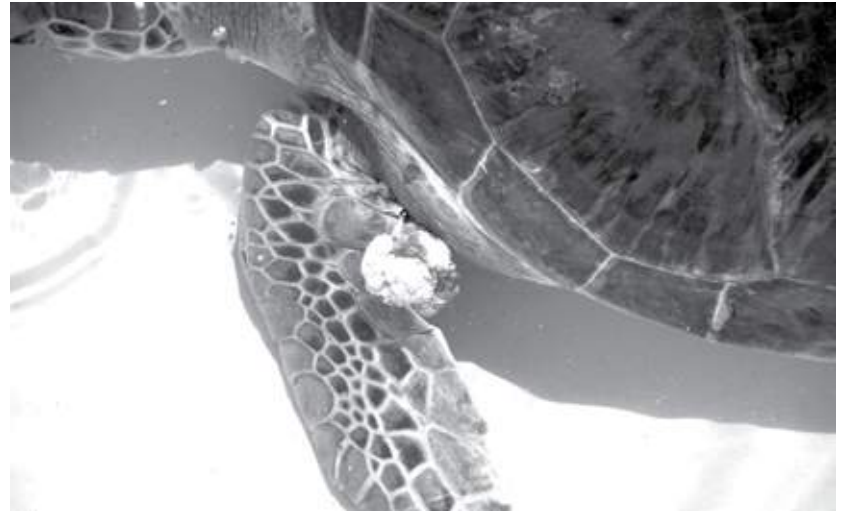
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

has a turtle ambulance. However, several months ago the hospital workers didn't have to go to get the sick turtle. Instead, the turtle came to them!

On March 29, a young loggerhead turtle swam into the small inlet near the hospital. At first, the hospital staff didn't pay much attention.

But when the workers noticed that the turtle was still in the inlet hours later, they decided to investigate. After bobbing around in a couple of small boats for 45 minutes waiting for the turtle to surface, they were able to catch her and bring her to the hospital for an examination.

It was good that they did, because Kincaid, as she was later named, was a very sick turtle. She looked very thin



THE WASHINGTON POST

Growths that look like cauliflower are a sign of fibropapilloma, a viral illness that can kill turtles. The Turtle Hospital in Marathon, Fla., is dedicated to helping sick and injured sea turtles.

and she had an infection in her blood.

The Turtle Hospital workers wondered how Kincaid had known to come to them for help, but because they don't have a Dr. Doolittle who can communicate with turtles, it will remain one of nature's mysteries.

Sea turtles eat whatever food they happen to find. Unfortunately, they sometimes mistake plastic trash or tangled fishing line floating in the ocean for food. When they eat these things, turtles get sick and often stop feeding.

That can make them weak and even cause them to die. Luckily, Kincaid was found and treated in time to save her life. The hospital staff says Kincaid is feeling much better now, and they hope to release her soon.

So, please don't litter in or around the ocean, and be especially careful with plastic items and fishing line. If you want to learn more about Kincaid and the other turtles being treated at the Turtle Hospital, ask your parents and then visit www.turtlehospital.org.

Listen up, but keep it down

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Have you ever been listening to your iPod and had someone try to talk to you — but you couldn't hear them?

If so, your iPod is probably turned up too loud. And if it is, there are a lot of reasons to turn it down.

Many kids today have portable MP3 players that they listen to regularly, and that has raised concern among experts who study hearing. That's because if you listen to something that's even somewhat loud over a long period of time, it can cause hearing loss in the long run. At first you may not notice it, but it could become a problem, according to Anne Oyler, who is an audiologist, or hearing specialist.

"If they feel they want to turn it up for one song, that's fine. But if you listen to an iPod every day at a very loud level, gradually over time you're going to notice that your hearing has gone down," Oyler said. Think about it: No other generation has started listening to music through

headphones and earbuds this young. So no other generation has ever been at such a high risk for hearing loss.

So how loud is too loud? Every song is different, and every device is different, but Oyler said a good rule of thumb is that you should be able to hear what's going on around you, such as a person talking in a normal voice an arm's length away. (And that person should not be able to hear what you're listening to.)

How loud is too loud?

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association has a Web site where you can play games and find more information on the appropriate volume for music in earbuds at www.listentoyourbuds.org.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Of course, you may not always want to hear what's going on around you. "I'm always able to hear the conversations. I may not be paying attention, but I can hear them," said Radhika Rajkumar, 13, of Washington, who said she listens to her iPod off and on all day.

Radhika said she and her friends are aware that loud volume can cause hearing loss, but it's more of an issue for kids who like to listen to music that she said "sounds better" when it's loud. Radhika said she only sometimes listens to those kinds of songs.

Sounds on the decibel chart

Some common sounds listed by their decibel level:

- 0: The quietest sound you can hear
- 30: Whispering
- 60: Normal conversation
- 70: Recommended listening level (50 percent volume on Apple iPod with earbuds)
- 85: Telephone dial tone (start to need hearing protection)
- 105: Earbuds, volume all the way up
- 110: Baby crying
- 120: Ambulance siren
- 140: Jet engine at takeoff

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Oyler said she'd like to see kids remove themselves from the "noisy" world occasionally to experience quieter sounds and environments. "Listening to quiet sounds is good for you: It lowers your blood pressure. It relaxes you," she said.

Radhika said she prefers to have her iPod on but does have one place where she likes to listen to something quiet: "Sometimes I like to just go sit in the back yard and listen to the birds, listen to nature. It can be really nice."

Why does ice cream melt?

By STEPHEN LOWMAN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

There is a holiday coming up, and we're not talking about the Fourth of July. This one is celebrated with a cone or a bowl, one scoop or two, chocolate syrup or sprinkles (maybe both!).

Yep, July is National Ice Cream Month and July 19 is National Ice Cream Day. President Ronald Reagan proclaimed it so in 1984. Whatever flavor you choose and whatever you choose to top it with, you can be sure that if you don't eat it fast enough it will become a sticky mess.

So why does ice cream melt?

To find out, KidsPost talked to Sean O'Keefe. He is a professor and food chemist at Virginia Tech. O'Keefe remembers playing cards and eating ice cream with his great-aunt when he was a kid. The ice cream at her house was his favorite because her freezer didn't work too well. That meant the ice cream was usually soft. It is an example of one reason ice cream melts: temperature.

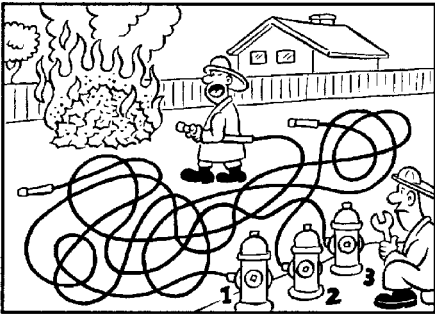
O'Keefe explained that energy is present in both cold and warm objects. But the warmer an object is, the more energy it has. So when ice cream (a cold object) is eaten in a warm place (like your back yard

in July), it quickly begins absorbing energy. Once a certain amount of energy has been absorbed, the ice cream begins to melt. It's like boiling water. The water will boil and turn into a gas once it has absorbed enough energy from the heat of the stove.

Ingredients also affect how ice cream melts. Cream, sugar, eggs and fun things such as chocolate chips, cookie dough and fudge go into ice cream. One of the most important ingredients, however, is fat. It gives ice cream its creamy texture. It also helps determine how fast it melts. O'Keefe said nonfat ice cream will melt more slowly than regular ice cream because it contains more water. More water means the ice cream will have to absorb more energy before it can melt. Also, low-fat ice creams tend to have more air whipped into them, which allows them to keep their shape longer.


Finally, have you put a carton of melted ice cream back into the freezer? You probably noticed that it doesn't taste as good. It is rough and crunchy, right? This is because the water that melted from the ice cream refroze and expanded into large ice crystals.

Whew! There is a lot of science involved in eating ice cream. Just eat yours quickly before it drips all over your shirt!



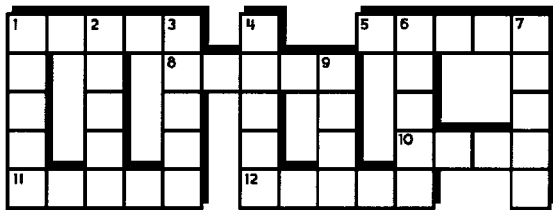
WHICH HYDRANT should Fireman Bill turn on to get water to Fred's house? You have 30 seconds to put out the blaze.

Answer: Hydrant No. 3.



Junior Whirl
by Charles Barry Townsend

IT'S LEISURE TIME!



Illustrated by David Coulson

The 13 words below are associated with things you can do during summer vacation. Use the trial-and-error method to complete the puzzle grid above; erasers are permitted.

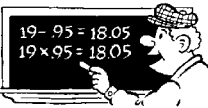
4-letter words:
KNIT
RIDE

5-letter words:
BOOKS
CARDS
CLIMB

5-letter words:
HIKER
LINKS
PARTY
RODEO
SHOWS
SKEET
SLEEP
TREKS

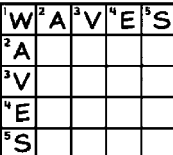
Answers: (Across) 1. Cards, 5. Sleep, 8. Hiker, 10. Knit, 11. Books, 12. Treks. (Down) 1. Climb, 2. Rodeo, 3. Shows, 4. Sheet, 6. Links, 7. Party, 9. Ride.

CHALKY'S SUREFIRE BET! Bet your friends that they can't find two numbers that will give the same results whether multiplied or subtracted together. Chalky has one answer to this problem.



19 - 95 = 18.05
19 x 95 = 18.05

MISS THIS AND YOU'LL BE "ALL WET"! Can you find the four five-letter words needed on the right that match the definitions below? All words must read the same across and down.



1. Found at the shore (given). 2. Next to (nautical).
3. Rhymed composition. 4. An upright frame.
5. What a bad deal does.

Answers: 1. Waves, 2. Abeam, 3. Verse, 4. Easel, 5. Smell.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was American astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second man to set foot on the moon, who made the following declaration: "I believe that every human has a finite number of heartbeats. I don't intend to waste any of mine running around doing exercises."
- If you're like the average American, you will spend approximately 8,760 hours of your life—that's one full year—just watching commercials on TV.
- Talk about bad luck: A 26-year-old man was walking down a street in the town of Windhoek, Namibia, when he was struck by lightning. As if that weren't bad enough, the bolt of lightning caused him to fall into the street, where he was struck by a car. The poor man didn't survive, though it's not clear which stroke of bad luck dealt the fatal blow.
- You may be surprised to learn that the first Caesar salad was actually created in Tijuana, Mexico.
- Every seed you find inside an apple has a genetically different makeup from every other seed inside the same apple.
- According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word that has the largest number of different meanings is "set"—it takes 26 pages to detail them all.
- According to the record-keepers at Guinness, Robert Ardito holds the world record for the most punches thrown in one minute: 702.
- In Pennsylvania, a man was stunned when he returned home one day to find a deer taking a bubble bath. It seems that the unfortunate animal had stumbled into the house and in its frenzy to find a way out again, ended up in the bathroom, where its antics accidentally turned on the water and knocked over a bottle of bubble bath.

Thought for the Day: "Politeness is the art of choosing among your thoughts."—Madame de Stael

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MAGIC MAZE • FATHER —

R D A X U R P M J E G D A X V
F S Q N K I F D T A X V T Q O
M I J H F C A A Y R W U R P N
L J G H N R G F O E D B Z N X
V T R U Q O E S O G M D K A I
H F C H R I S T M A S E N G D
B Z Y R W E N D N M M D V A T
R Q U O F W A L N I N I D N L
L S K N O I H F T A W R O A D
C A O R Z X W V S Y M B O L U
S C B Y R T N U O C S I H F O

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

And son	Figure	In-law	Symbol
Brown	Flanagan	Land	Time
Christmas	Hood	Of his country	Winter
Confessor	Image	Surrogate	

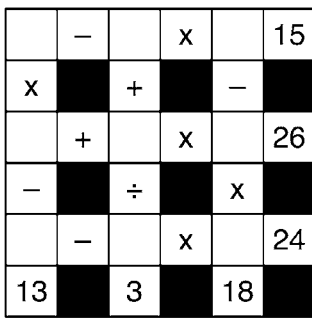
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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★ ★ ★

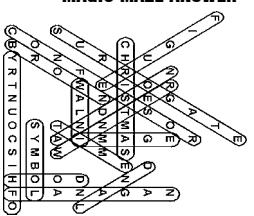
★ Moderate ★ ★ Difficult
★ ★ ★ GO FIGURE!



1 2 3 4 5 5 6 7 8

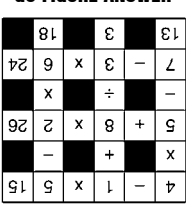
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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



FATHER

GO FIGURE ANSWER



Plan ahead before traveling with pet

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'm moving from my hometown to Lansing, Mich., next month, and I plan to drive the whole way. My mom is coming along too, to help out. The big worry though, is my dog "Sparks," a toy terrier. He gets very agitated in the car. I also don't know if he'll be allowed to stay in hotels with us along the way. I have a few weeks before starting my new job, and I want to "meander" a bit and see the country, but will that be possible with Sparks along?—**Jeannie from Tampa, Fla.**

DEAR JEANNIE: With a bit of planning, you should be able to have a fun road trip without stressing Sparks (or yourself) too much. The first person to call is Sparks' veterinarian. You'll need a copy of his medical and shot record for his new vet in Michigan. Talk to the vet about your planned trip and about Sparks' anxiety in the car. Medication is available to help calm your dog while traveling.

Alternatively, you could try taking him on a couple of car trips before your big move. For example, drive about 30-60 minutes to a nice park, hop out and take Sparks for a walk around, then drive back home. Sometimes a pet's only car experience is a short ride to the vet, so doing something different may help ease that anxiety.

Finding a pet-friendly hotel during



the trip may not be as difficult as you think. Many national hotel chains have pet policies that allow smaller pets, and some have even more liberal rules. Motel 6, for example, has a one-pet-per-room policy and charges no additional fees.

Plot out your driving route along with sights you want to see, and where you will likely stop for the night, then call ahead to hotels in that area (or look them up online) to ask about their pet policy.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Star-spangled sculptures for Fourth of July picnic

O h-h-h say, can you see ... that your middle-school-age kids actually can be pulled away from their video games and cell phones? As you prepare for a Fourth of July celebration with family and friends, give the kids some hands-on, creative fun outdoors. Challenge them to think "patriotic" and put them in charge of sculpting and painting table decorations with a stars and stripes motif.

All you need is lots of white packing foam from a new computer, DVD player, toaster, TV, etc., wooden kebab skewers, toothpicks, household glue, non-toxic red and blue tempera or acrylic paint, paintbrushes, markers and serrated bread knives.

Bring all your supplies and kids outside. They can let off some steam when they karate chop the largest foam into the building blocks of your sculptures.

Use plastic serrated bread knives to cut and shape the pieces, then attach them together with skewers and toothpicks to construct the sculpture. Add color and details with paint and markers. While working, the kids might want to talk about what they love most about America, how our country could improve and how they could participate in making it better.

Here are some ideas:

SYMBOLS

For a tall, eye-catching table centerpiece, construct a "Building of Freedom." Stack and attach foam pieces with the largest at the base and the smallest at the top. Draw windows, doors and other details you like. Top with a paper American flag to blow in the breeze. Or, sculpt other symbols of freedom such as the Liberty Bell and



the Statue of Liberty.

Carve a large piece into the shape of your state, and mark the capital with a star. And, there is always Uncle Sam!

BOATS

Set long, rimmed pans or plastic and tin flower boxes filled with water down the middle of the table for a flotilla of boats. Carve the foam into floating boat shapes. Cut out red, white and blue paper sails and attach them to the foam with toothpicks or twigs. Set them in the water to float.

For a mouthwatering gourmet fleet, put fresh strawberries and blueberries on skewers and attach to the boats.

You might float flower blossoms in the water, too.

Tip: After the meal, let younger kids float their boats in a wading pool or ice tub filled with water.

Safety note: Due to small parts and pieces, this activity is appropriate for children 4 and older.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Jackson ex-wife shows interest in custody of kids

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The future of Michael Jackson's children was thrown into question Thursday when his ex-wife emerged and won a delay in a custody hearing while she decides whether she wants to raise her two offspring.

It was the first legal move from Deborah Rowe since the entertainer's death. Jackson's will asks for his mother, Katherine, to get permanent custody of all three of his children.

Rowe, who met Jackson as a receptionist in the office of his dermatologist, has characterized their relationship as strictly for the purpose of birthing Jackson children. She is the mother of his two oldest children and received \$8.5 million in their divorce, according to court records. His youngest child was conceived with a surrogate.

She has spent very little time with her son Michael Joseph Jr., known as Prince Michael, 12; and daughter Paris Michael Katherine, 11. But Rowe also has opposed the idea of Katherine Jackson getting custody of her children when it came up in the past.

Rowe's attorney, Eric M. George, said Thursday she had not decided whether to seek custody.

Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff rescheduled a guardianship hearing for July 13 at the request of attorneys for Rowe and for

In this Monday, Oct. 27, 2003 file picture, Michael Jackson thanks the audience during the Radio Music Awards at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas.

AP



Jackson memorial set for Tuesday in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's memorial service has been set for Tuesday at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles.


AEG Live, which owns the Staples Center and was Jackson's promoter, called a press conference for Friday at 10 a.m. to announce details, according to a press release from the office of the Jackson family's publicist.

Randy Phillips, AEG's chief executive, said tickets would be free. He was not sure how they would be distributed.

But Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis Zine said the Jackson family should consider delaying the public memorial to allow more time to plan. He also said the cash-strapped city can't afford to pay police overtime.

"If you can imagine 100,000 people show up and you have 20,000 capacity (at the Staples Center), there is not sufficient room. Now you have a crowd-control problem," Zine said. With the July Fourth holiday weekend "it's the worst time ... to work something out."

Death and Funeral Announcement



CARLA MAE PANGELINAN BENAVENTE
"Mae"

Born to Eternal Life: August 16, 1974
Called to Eternal Life: June 29, 2009

of Afetnas, Saipan was called eternal home by our Lord at the age of 34.

Anthony & Jolene Benavente (Gino Anthony & Jaden Anthony)
Lorna & Eddie Sablan (Lorie Cassandra, Donald John, Eddie Jr., & Kaitlin)
Fernando & Meena Benavente (Fernando Antoine, Nathan Marquel, Aiden Joshua, & Amiah Grey)

Maternal Uncles & Aunts:
Juan D. Dela Cruz
†Pedro DLC & Judith Pangelinan
Henry DLC & Matilde Pangelinan & Family
†Agnes P. DLGuerrero & Francisco C. DLGuerrero & Family
Martin DLC & Frances Pangelinan & Family
Oscar DLC & Frannie Pangelinan & Family
Rebecca P. & John Santos & Family
Brenda P. & Allen Manibusan & Family
Laurion DLC & Vera Pangelinan & Family

Family of Francisco A. Ada:
+Gilbert Castro Ada & Faustina Aldan Ada
Gilbert Aldan Ada, Jr. & Maryann Tenorio Ada & Family
Francisco S. Ada (Koko) / Step-Brother James Aldan Ada & Elizabeth Sablan Ada & Family
Daniel Aldan Ada
Luciana Aldan Ada & Edward T. Cabrera & Family
Abelena Aldan Ada & Jerome Tenorio Attao & Family

Special Aunts:
Esther A. & Joaquin Guerrero & Family
Maria & John Ligmaw & Family

Paternal Uncles & Aunts:
†Juan S. Benavente & Family
Rita S. Benavente & Family
Frances S. Benavente & Family
Juanita B. & Jose Angel & Family
Carmen B. & Ramon Crisostimo & Family
†Lydia B. Fujihira & Family
Guillermo S. & Arsenia Benavente & Family
Delia B. & Roque Muna
†George B. & Ana Benavente & Family
Alicia S. Benavente & Family
Lillian B. & Carlos Diaz & Family

Predeceased by: Maternal Uncle (†Pedro DLC. Pangelinan)
Maternal Aunt (†Agnes P. Deleon Guerrero)
Maternal Uncle (†Norbert DLC. Pangelinan)
Paternal Grandparents (†Fernando M. & †Faustina S. Benavente)
Paternal Uncle (†Juan S. Benavente)
Paternal Aunt (†Lydia B. Fujihira)
Paternal Uncle (†George S. Benavente)
Maternal Cousin (†Emery Joseph I. Pangelinan)
Mother-in-Law (†Maria T. Palacios)

Survived by:
Parents: Rufina C. Pangelinan & Francisco A. Ada
Antonio S. Benavente
Common Law: Lenard A. Bass Jr.
Children: Edward Anthony, Regina Judith, Maeyesha, & Christopher Jay
Maternal Grandparents: Hilarion R. & Maxima DLC. Pangelinan
Godparents: James & Susana R. Cabrera
Eleuterio & Linda Palacios
Brothers/Sister/Spouse & Children: Dennis John Nageskabei & Linda Lizama (Daisy Ann & Peter Anthony)

Additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces.

Holy Mass is being offered nightly at San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm followed by the rosary. Funeral services will be announced on a later date.

Si Yuus Ma'ase,
Ginen I Familia

Katherine Jackson, 79, who has temporary guardianship of her son's children.

The identity of the surrogate mother of the singer's youngest child, 7-year-old son Prince Michael II, has never been revealed.

Jackson's public memorial was set for 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles, according to a press release from the office of the Jackson family's publicist.

Randy Phillips, chief executive of AEG Live, which owns the Staples Center and was Jackson's promoter, said tickets would be free. He was not sure how they would be distributed.

Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis Zine said plans for the memorial are clearly moving forward, but he wished there had been more time to

work out the logistics for such a huge event.

"If you can imagine 100,000 people show up and you have 20,000 capacity (at the Staples Center), there is not sufficient room. Now you have a crowd-control problem," he said. With the July Fourth holiday weekend "it's the worst time ... to work something out." He also said he's concerned about the cost of police overtime for the cash-strapped city.

Another court hearing will proceed as planned Monday on who will take temporary control of Jackson's estate. He left all his assets to the Michael Jackson Family Trust.

A person familiar with the details of the trust said it would be shared between his mother, who gets 40 per-

cent, his three children, who together get 40 percent, and charities for children, which would receive 20 percent. The charities will be determined later by the trust.

The person was not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity.

Authorities also were investigating allegations that the 50-year-old Jackson had been consuming painkillers, sedatives and antidepressants.

California Attorney General Jerry Brown said his office was helping Los Angeles police investigate the possible involvement of prescription drugs in Jackson's death.

His Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement is searching a state database that tracks doctors who prescribe controlled substances, how much and to whom.

Geller, ex-bodyguard tell of Jackson drug abuse

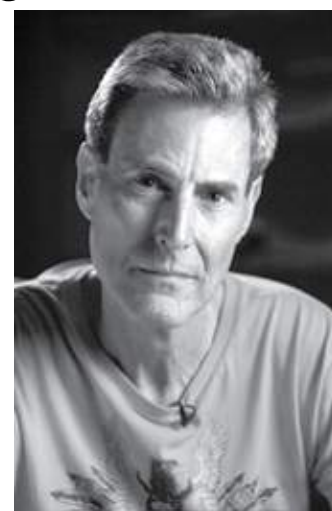
LONDON (AP)—Two of Michael Jackson's former confidantes, medium Uri Geller and ex-bodyguard Matt Fiddes, say they tried in vain to keep the pop superstar from abusing painkillers and other prescription drugs suspected of leading to his death—but others in the singer's circle kept the supplies flowing.

"When Michael asked for something, he got it. This was the great tragedy," Geller said Thursday.

Geller, who said he suffered a terrible falling-out with Jackson several years ago over the issue, said he often had "to shout at Michael, to scream at Michael" as he sought to confiscate the singer's stocks of medication during his travels in England.

"I tried to drum sense into his brain," Geller said. "I told him, 'Michael you're going to die, Michael you're going to kill yourself.' But he just stared at me. Many a time he was in his bed and I stood and shouted at him. He just stared at me."

Speaking at his home near London, Geller said he slept on floors or sofas in Jackson's hotel suites in a bid to talk sense into his some-



Uri Geller, 62, a medium, a psychic spoonbender and a close friend of Michael Jackson, poses for the Associated Press at his mansion outside London, Thursday July 2, 2009.

times-incoherent friend.

"Most of the people around Michael could not say 'No!' to him. He desperately needed someone there all the time who could say 'No!' and mean it, who could warn him of the dangers ... and tell him the truth," Geller said. "The big problem was that many people wanted to help Michael, to save his life, but we could not

be there all the time."

Geller said Jackson relied on medications to help him cope with relentless pressure and media criticism in his later years. "With his sanity buffeted and health wracked by global bullying nonstop, I think it's actually incredible that Michael held up as well as he did," he said.

Fiddes, an English karate instructor who worked as a senior bodyguard during Jackson's travels in Britain for a decade, said the pop idol abused prescription medications, not recreational drugs, and took so much that it could be difficult to wake him for engagements.

"I confiscated packages and Uri did too. I mean, Uri confiscated injection equipment from his room," Fiddes said in an interview broadcast Thursday by Sky News. "And Uri would scream at Michael, you know, intensely, to stop doing this. But we just were getting pushed out."

Fiddes recalled one occasion when Jackson planned to visit London Zoo to see the gorillas, chimpanzees and other primates—but was too spaced out to go anywhere.

Expert: Asphyxia likely killed actor Carradine

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The private pathologist who conducted a second autopsy on David Carradine's body said Friday that Thai authorities have determined the actor died of asphyxia and so far, he agrees.

"Thus far, the information we have gathered is consistent with that," Dr. Michael Baden said. But he noted that is waiting for key details from Thai authorities.

Those include results from toxicology tests, an analysis of items found in Carradine's room, security surveillance footage and a log of room entries from the hotel's key card system.

The famed New York pathologist said he cannot yet deter-

mine whether Carradine's death was accidental or a homicide.

Baden performed a second autopsy on Carradine's body after it was returned to the United States. The actor was buried on June 13 in Los Angeles.

His immediate conclusion was that the "Kill Bill" actor didn't die of suicide.

Thai police initially said they suspected Carradine's death was a suicide, but later conceded it could have been accidental. Their description—that the actor's body was found nude, with ropes around his neck, wrist and

genitals—fueled speculation that he was killed while engaging in a dangerous sex practice called autoerotic asphyxiation.

Baden said autoerotic asphyxiation remains a possible cause of death.

Some of Carradine's friends have said they suspect foul play in his death.

His brothers, Keith and Robert, have urged patience until all information is available and promised to release the results of Baden's inquiry.

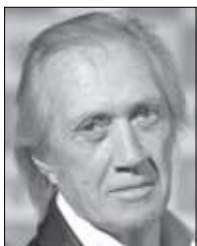
Baden said he is waiting to talk to a pathologist in Thailand

about some of the missing details he needs.

"When we've spoken to them, they've been very cooperative," he said. He noted they have already received crime scene photographs.

Baden has said the autopsy would be only part of his analysis.

Speculation about the actor's death has swirled since a chambermaid at the luxury Swissotel Nai Lert Park Hotel in Bangkok discovered his body hanging in the closet of his room June 4. A Thai newspaper published a graphic photo of the death scene that police have said appears to be a leaked forensics image.



Carradine

Friend feels she's always the caller who's waiting

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I often go to the movies with my friend "Valerie." During the movie she puts her phone on mute, but I can still hear when it vibrates. Val acts embarrassed by it, but she never turns the phone off.

As soon as the movie ends, Val will check her phone for the message. (It's never anything that couldn't wait.) Then she returns the call and talks to the caller all the way out of the theater and to her car where we say our goodbyes.

The last time we went to a film, I met her at a cinema miles from where I live, battling rush-hour traffic. When I arrived, she was standing in line with her exercise instructor. They spent the extra hour before the movie began discussing workout techniques, completely ignoring me and the instructor's husband. Val also "had" to place a call to a co-worker while we waited.

When Valerie calls me, she'll interrupt me in mid-sentence to take a non-emergency call from family. She promises to call me right back, but never does. Abby, I value her friendship, but I'm tired of her rudeness. I'm not good at confrontations. What can I do?

SECOND BANANA

DEAR SECOND BANANA: The relationship you have with Val is not what I would call friendship. Friends enjoy each other's company and enjoy talking with each other. Friends are sensitive to each other's feelings. With each of the actions you have described, Val is demonstrating that you—and your feelings—are less important than what she impulsively decides to do at the moment.

Under the circumstances, I don't think it would be "confrontational" to tell this woman that your feelings are hurt and why. From where I sit, she has treated you like nothing more than a seat partner.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What does it mean when a spouse refers only to himself when talking about things that involve the two of us as a couple? Example: We're building a house, but he never says "we" when talking about it. He'll say, "my house," or "I'm not going to pay that much."

When I mention this to him, he gets angry and says, "You know what I mean." Well, I don't because I always say "we" when referring to financial matters or anything else that pertains to both of us. Am I being petty?

TEAM PLAYER IN OHIO

DEAR TEAM PLAYER: Yes, if you take this personally. In the grand scheme of things, this isn't worth picking a fight over. And if you're smart, you will choose your battles.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are invited to my dad and stepmom's house for almost every holiday. There are usually 25 to 35 people at these events. After dinner, the "girls" are expected to clear the tables, wash the dishes and clean the kitchen. I don't mind volunteering, but my stepmom INSISTS. No dessert is served until everything is clean.

When I invite guests to my home, I ask them to leave the dishes and "let's enjoy ourselves." I believe that when you invite people over, you should not expect them to work unless they volunteer. Am I wrong to feel this way?

STUCK IN A CYCLE

DEAR STUCK: You are entitled to your feelings, but what you are describing are two different styles of entertaining. Your father and stepmom are traditional in their thinking, as demonstrated by the gender-driven division of labor. While I agree that your stepmom could be less heavy-handed in her approach, it is her house, and on their turf, the hosts get to make the rules. If you really resent being conscripted when you attend these gatherings, perhaps you should attend fewer of them.

■ ■ ■ ■

CONFIDENTIAL TO PAULINE PHILLIPS IN MINNEAPOLIS: It's your birthday, Mama—91 amazing years. You have taught me by example all of the important life lessons, and I love you with all my heart. Happy Birthday, Sweetheart.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Jermaine Jackson: 'I wish it was me'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jermaine Jackson says he would like to see Neverland Ranch as his brother Michael's final resting place.

In an interview broadcast Thursday on NBC's "Today" show, Jermaine Jackson also said he wishes he had died instead of his younger brother, and that Michael was "a gift from Allah."

"He went too soon. I don't know how people are going to take this, but I wish it was me," Jermaine Jackson said.

When asked why he felt that way, Jermaine Jackson said he always felt that he was Michael's "backbone."

"Someone to be there for him.

I was there and he was sort of like Moses. Things he couldn't say, I would say them. During the trials, during everything ..."

Jermaine Jackson said that when he rushed to UCLA Medical Center last Thursday, where the 50-year-old pop singer was pronounced dead, "I wanted to see Michael, and I wanted to see my brother, and seeing him there lifeless and breathless was very emotional for me, but I held myself together because I know he's very much alive."

"His spirit is, and that was just a shell, but I kissed him on his forehead and I hugged him, and I touched him and I said, 'Michael, I'll never leave you. You'll never leave me.'"

On Wednesday, Jackson family spokesman Ken Sunshine said a public memorial was in the works but it wouldn't be held at Neverland.

A person familiar with the situation told the AP that permits for a burial at the sprawling Santa Barbara, Calif., estate could not be arranged in time. The person was not authorized



AP

In a Thursday, June 25, 2009 file photo, Jermaine Jackson announces his brother Michael's death during a news conference at the UCLA Medical Center, in Los Angeles.

to speak for the family and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Jackson said Neverland was

Michael's home.

"He created this. Why wouldn't he be here? I feel his presence."

Obama says he grew up listening to Jackson

WASHINGTON (AP)—The King of Pop had a fan in the White House.

President Barack Obama described himself as a longtime follower of Michael Jackson, the legendary performer who died June 25 at age 50.

"I grew up on his music—still have all his stuff on my iPod," Obama said in an AP interview Thursday, adding that Jackson "will go down in history as one of our greatest entertainers."

At the time of his death, the

pop icon was preparing a series of comeback concerts to overcome years of sexual scandal and financial calamity—a troubled history the president acknowledged without naming specifics.

"I think that his brilliance as a performer also was paired with a tragic and, in many ways, sad personal life," Obama said.

He expressed pleasure that the public is celebrating Jackson for his talents, instead of dwelling on his personal tragedies.

"I'm glad to see that he is being remembered primarily for the great joy that he brought to a lot of people through his extraordinary gifts as an entertainer."

The president said he didn't see any controversy in the fact that he did not issue a formal public statement upon Jackson's death, and said he was unaware of any dissatisfaction in the black community with his response.

"I know a lot of people in the black community," Obama said. "I haven't heard that."

Poll: 64 percent say too much Jackson coverage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nearly two in three Americans say news organizations have given too much coverage to the death of Michael Jackson, but half say the media have struck the right balance between covering the pop star's personal life and musical career.

In a Pew Research Center poll published Wednesday, 64 percent of those surveyed said Jackson's death last week in Los Angeles has received too much coverage, 29 percent said the story received the right amount and 3 percent said the story got too little attention.

Thirty percent said they fol-

lowed the story very closely, though that number jumped to 80 percent among blacks, according to the independent public opinion research group.

Pew interviewed about 1,000 adults for the poll, which has a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3.5 percentage points.



AP

In this May 14, 2008 file photo, Author James Frey listens during an interview before a book signing in New York.

James Frey writing teen science fiction novels

NEW YORK (AP)—James Frey (FRY) is writing for young people, and Hollywood has signed on.

Frey, a former screenwriter best known for his discredited memoir "A Million Little Pieces," is collaborating on a four-book series of teen science fiction novels that HarperCollins will publish.

Screen rights for the first novel, "I Am Number Four," have been acquired by DreamWorks and "Transformers" director Michael Bay.

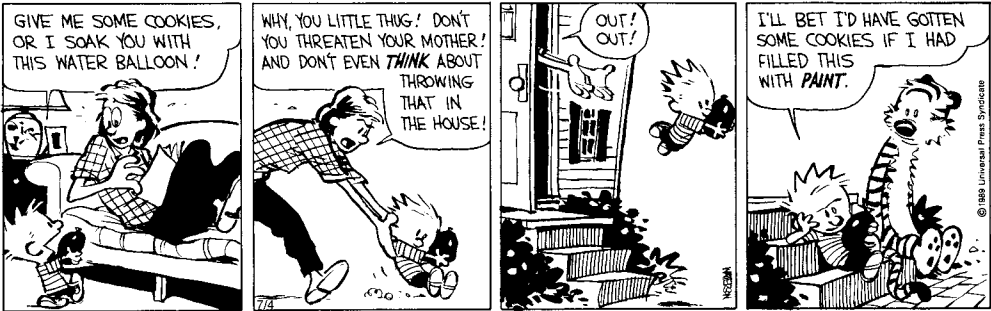
Frey's co-author is Jobie Hughes, a recent graduate from the creative writing program at Columbia University.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

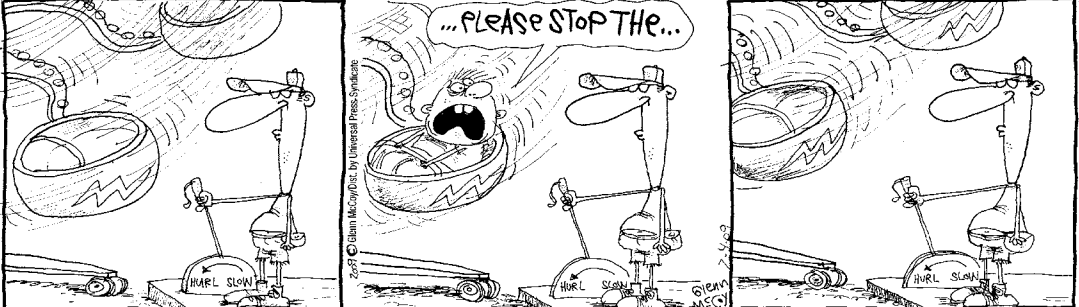
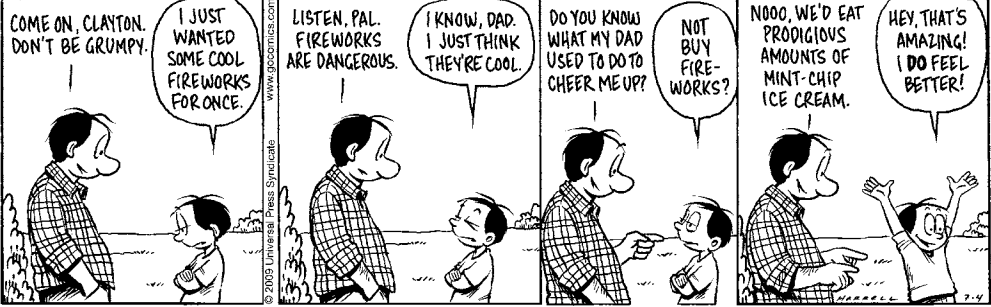
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Riches' opposite

5 Summery desserts

9 Frenzied

12 Sandwich cookie

13 Angry

14 Leading lady?

15 Suitor

16 Farm fraction

17 Kans. neighbor

18 Dumbo's "wings"

19 Feathery accessory

20 Only

21 Nay

23 Greek cross

25 Bull or bear

28 Dormant

32 West Indian sorcery

33 Zoo howler

34 Beat cop's job

36 Automatic response

DOWN

1 Kimono, e.g.

2 Vicinity

3 Paraphernalia

4 Rousing piece of music, often

5 Sanford of "The Jeffersons"

6 Designer Chanel

7 Slips in print

8 Witness chart

9 Waiter's hand-out

10 Birds, to a zoologist

11 Obligation

20 Time for 4-Down

22 Google competitor

24 Wan

25 Swab the decks

26 Lawyers' org.

27 Bumped into

29 Wet wriggler

30 Away from

31 Peace, to Caesar

35 Chicago university

36 Prayer beads

39 Tea-spoonful, maybe

40 Gross

41 Eyelid woe

43 Verve

45 Pianist Peter

46 Regimen

47 Change for a fin

49 Rotating part

Solution time: 27 mins.

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O	R	R	S	I	D	L	E	N
F	A	I	R	P	L	A	Y	S
T	H	E	L	M	F	L	E	E
R	E	N	E	W	D	O	U	R
A	C	E	S	F	A	I	R	G
T	H	R	U	E	A	S	T	O
S	O	D	S	E	A	C	H	M

Yesterday's answer 7-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Becki Newton, 31; Geraldo Rivera, 66; George Steinbrenner, 79; Gina Lollobrigida, 82

Happy Birthday: Be honest if you want to be treated respectfully. Good changes are heading your way—all you have to do is recognize them and be willing to make a move to ensure a brighter future. Learn from past mistakes and you can offset any situation that could leave you in an awkward professional position. Your numbers are 9, 12, 14, 26, 32, 34, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Check out the fine details of a contract you are thinking about signing or go over your personal papers and investments to find something that needs your attention. A few simple changes can equate to more money in your pocket. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone may try to push you to get involved in something or donate to a cause you don't believe in. Instead, stick close to home where you can keep a close eye on your possessions and your domestic situation. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be caught in the act of hiding something private if you don't control your emotional responses. Someone who knows you well will pick up on any unusual little move you make. Have your alibi ready. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put family time first. If you are too busy taking care of business, you will miss out on something memorable and will disappoint someone you love. Rethink your motives and lifestyle in order to accommodate the people who count. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's time to have a little fun. Take that much-needed break. Surround yourself with the people you enjoy the most. Strive for a worry-free day. Let someone else entertain for a change. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Now is not the time to let others get away with things. Speak up and defend your position, especially where family matters are concerned. Changes will be made to suit your needs if you ask, so don't play the martyr. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Avoid anyone who is standing in your way, putting you down or forcing something on you. A personal matter will upset you if you let someone in on a secret you have been hiding. Actions will be what count. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't deviate from what needs to be accomplished, even if someone is trying to coerce you into cutting corners. You have to make the final decision if you are going to be responsible for the outcome. You won't be able to trust anyone to do things your way. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An emotional situation will explode, leaving you in a difficult position that requires immediate attention. Don't try to avoid the truth or you will dig a deeper hole. You have to tell it like it is, even if it may hurt someone's feelings. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Open your

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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heart and your home to the people you love most. This is the perfect time to make some much-needed changes that will ensure a simpler and more efficient lifestyle. A serious commitment can be made. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your erratic behavior may confuse someone but it will help you dodge an emotional bullet. Think on your feet and act according to your intuition and you will avoid controversy. Don't let anyone back you into a corner. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Experience will count and, if someone who is more adept at something questions you, you should listen. You can learn something of value, even if you don't like the lesson. You will gain respect and a stronger position. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are strong and stubborn, willing to take on something unusual and always ready to take action when someone you care for needs help.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 7/04

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

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6	3	7	8	4	2	5	9	1
9	2	5	1	8	6	4	3	7
8	7	4	2	5	3	9	1	6
3	1	6	4	9	7	2	5	8
5	4	3	7	6	8	1	2	9
1	6	8	9	2	5	7	4	3
7	9	2	3	1	4	8	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 7/04

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE LIFE OF A PARALEGAL Solution: 7 letters

L	L	I	F	A	M	I	L	Y	E	G	D	U	J	E
I	A	D	M	I	N	I	S	T	R	A	T	I	V	E
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E	I	T	O	C	I	S	U	P	R	E	M	E	A	
A	M	S	E	I	U	G	N	S	E	S	A	C	L	P
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L	R	R	C	O	V	U	E	A	T	I	I	L	R	
I	C	O	T	I	V	I	T	N	T	R	M	A	N	P
N	L	C	C	S	N	E	E	I	T	I	W	E	A	G
E	E	E	A	S	M	I	R	W	T	S	O	T	L	S
F	R	R	T	E	L	R	L	Y	I	S	E	N	E	Y
A	K	R	N	C	E	A	I	C	R	N	N	W	A	S
C	O	T	O	I	D	R	A	F	T	N	G	O	D	T
T	S	S	C	H	O	O	L	A	W	Y	E	R	C	E
S	T	R	U	O	C	O	L	L	E	G	E	K	G	M

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Yesterday's Answer: Choice

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Artest going to Lakers; Ariza to Rockets?



HOUSTON (AP)—Ron Artest is joining Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I am very excited to finally be going to L.A.," Artest said in a statement issued by his agent Thursday night.

"For years now, the Lakers have expressed interest in having me play for them, but we could never get the stars to align. I'm finally a Laker and I can't wait to get on the court with Kobe, Pau (Gasol) and the rest of the team, and play for Phil (Jackson). The Lakers really made me feel wanted."

David Bauman, Artest's agent, said the final details are still being worked out, but could be finished as early as Thursday night.

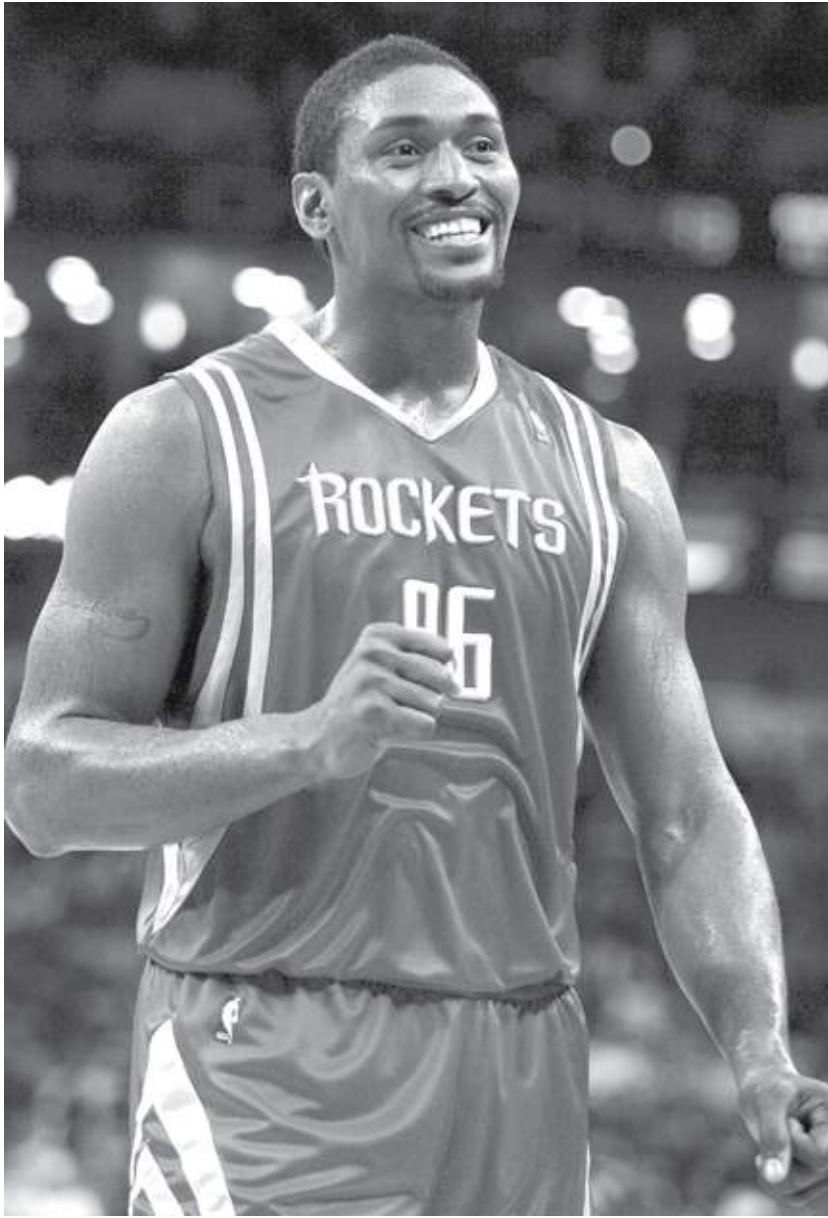
"We have entered into discussions with Ron Artest and it is our intention to sign him to a contract at the conclusion of the moratorium period," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said in a statement Thursday night.

ESPN.com reported that Artest had agreed to a three-year deal worth \$18 million. Bauman would not confirm those numbers, saying the deal was still being negotiated.

"We're not quite there yet," Bauman said. "We're still working on it."

Artest, who played for the Houston Rockets last season, decided to join the Lakers on Thursday.

"I made my decision after I had lunch today with Dr. Buss, and I realized what a great organization I'm joining. I'm very, very excited to be a Laker," Artest said. "I look forward to helping the Lakers defend their championship, and it will be great to finally not get booed in the Staples Center."



In this March 16, 2009, file photo, Houston Rockets forward Ron Artest smiles after a play during an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Hornets in New Orleans.

The 6-foot-7 forward earned \$7.4 million in his only season with Houston, averaging 17.1 points, 5.2 rebounds and 3.3 assists. The 2004 Defensive Player of the Year was also a rugged 1-on-1 defender, often assigned to guard the opponent's most dynamic scorer.

Bauman said Artest was looking for a championship-caliber team when he became an unrestricted free agent on Wednesday.

"He wants to win a ring," Bauman said. "He's a winner and a hard worker and he went looking for a team with whom he could find some justification for what he does. He plays his best when he's in that kind of an environment."

Earlier Thursday, Bauman said Artest was being courted by several teams that made the playoffs last season and received text messages from unspecified "superstars" who were trying to lure him to their cities. Bauman would not say if Bryant was one of those players, but acknowledged on Thursday night that their friendship was a factor in Artest's decision.

"The whole situation was extremely appealing to Ron," Bauman said.

The two had a feisty individual battle in the second round of the playoffs, as the undermanned Rockets pushed Bryant and the Lakers to seven games. Artest and Bryant often mouthed off at one another, and Artest was ejected from one game for confronting a referee and claiming that Bryant elbowed him in the neck.

Artest's decision is another tough blow to the Rockets, who acquired Artest in a trade with Sacramento last summer. The Rockets envisioned Art-

est as the final piece to a "Big Three" with Yao Ming and Tracy McGrady, but those two All-Stars are now dealing with long-term injuries.

Rockets general manager Daryl Morey did not immediately return a phone message Thursday night.

He already seemed resigned to losing Artest, flying to Las Vegas earlier in the day to meet with Lakers forward Trevor Ariza. The 6-8 Ariza averaged 8.9 points, 4.3 rebounds and 1.8 assists for the Lakers last season and would fit into Artest's role in Houston's starting lineup.

Houston already knows it will be missing McGrady for the bulk of next season as he recovers from microfracture surgery on his left knee.

The Rockets are also awaiting a definitive prognosis on Yao, who sustained a hairline fracture in his left foot in the playoffs. Morey made an aggressive pitch to free agent center Marcin Gortat shortly after the free agency period began on Wednesday.

Artest was on his best behavior in Houston last season, but he'll always be remembered as the central figure in the 2004 brawl with Detroit fans at The Palace of Auburn Hills when he played for the Indiana Pacers. Artest was suspended for 73 games, the NBA's harshest punishment for a fight.

Early in the 2005-06 season, Artest demanded a trade from Indiana, angering his teammates. He was dealt to Sacramento in January 2006 and meshed well with coach Rick Adelman, who now coaches the Rockets.

Two years later, Artest left the Kings in a bitter dispute with the team's ownership.

Sister Act 4: Venus, Serena reach Wimbledon final



WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Richard Williams refuses to watch his daughters Venus and Serena play each other.

Says he simply can't bear to see it, no matter the setting, no matter the stage.

So once again, the patriarch of the greatest sister act in tennis history is heading home to the United States before the Wimbledon final. That's because the women's singles championship at the All England Club is Venus Williams vs. Serena Williams for the second year in a row and fourth time overall.

The way the sisters won in Thursday's semifinals could hardly have been more different.

"Serena nearly gave me a heart attack," Dad said. "Venus played as if she had some place to go, and she was in a major league hurry to get a great dinner."

Serena went on Centre Court first and came within a point of losing to Beijing Olympics gold medalist Elena Dementieva before grunting and grinding her way to a 6-7 (4), 7-5, 8-6 victory that lasted 2 hours, 49 minutes—longer than any Wimbledon women's semifinal or final on record.

"Definitely one of my more dramatic victories," said Serena, who walloped a tournament-high 20 aces. "I felt like I was down pretty much the whole match."

Venus followed and dominated the No. 1-ranked woman, Dinara Safina, in

an astonishingly easy 6-1, 6-0 win that took merely 51 minutes and equaled the most lopsided semifinal result here over the last 74 years.

"The score just showed my level of play," the third-seeded Venus said. "I was just dictating on every point."

In Saturday's final, Venus will be trying to win her sixth Wimbledon and eighth Grand Slam title. Serena will be trying to win her third Wimbledon and 11th Grand Slam title.

It's the eighth all-Williams major final (Serena leads 5-2) and their 21st meeting on tour (they're tied 10-all).

"The more we play, the better it gets. When we play our match on Saturday, it's for everything. This is what we dreamed of when we were growing up in Compton, 20-something years ago," Serena said. "This is what we worked for, and this is what we want. Like, I wanted her to win today, and she wanted me to win today."

Venus has won 20 consecutive matches at Wimbledon; if she makes that 21, she will become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1991-93 to win the tournament three straight years. On Friday, the day before they face off for the singles title, the sisters will wake up at the house they're sharing during the tournament and head to the All England Club to play as a pair in the doubles semifinals, an event they won last year.

Richard Williams said Serena persuaded him to stick around for that doubles match. But he'll get on a plane Saturday, making sure to remind the pilots not to

tell him who wins singles final. How will he find out which daughter is this year's Wimbledon champion?

Not from TV. Or the Internet. Or by checking their Twitter feeds.

No, he'll find out the way he does every time one of his kids claims a Grand Slam championship: He'll read the sign that his neighbors in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., always post on the gate of their house—"Congratulations, Venus!" or "Congratulations, Serena!"

"All I know," Dad said, "is a Williams is going to win."

Serena nearly didn't make it. Seeded second, she hadn't lost a set all tournament, yet found herself trailing the fourth-seeded Dementieva.

The Russian is often pointed to as the best player without a Grand Slam title—if it isn't her, it's probably Safina—and the biggest weakness in her game long has been her serve.

She double-faulted eight times, but there were moments when that stroke got her out of trouble, including a second-serve ace at 110 mph. Surprisingly, it was her normally sturdy groundstrokes that let Dementieva down. Of course, Serena had something to do with that.

Dementieva's match point came at 5-4 in the third set, with Serena serving at 30-40. Dementieva had a backhand passing shot set up and tried to hit the ball cross-court, but Serena hit a backhand volley that clipped the tape and landed in.

"The only regret I have—Maybe I should take a little bit more risk on

match point, go down the line," Dementieva said.

It was one of dozens of spectacular points in a match filled with momentum swings and superb play. With the temperature hitting 90, Dementieva slathered white sunscreen on her face and behind her knees, and put a plastic bag of ice on her neck and armpits at changeovers. Both women took time to catch their breath after lengthy rallies.

The match might very well have hinged on a key point, when Dementieva led 4-3 in the second set and Serena double-faulted to 30-40. One more point, and Dementieva would serve for the match. But Serena hit a forehand winner that barely—we're talking less than a quarter-inch—landed on the chalk on a sideline. It was one of only seven forehand winners for Serena.

"My forehand didn't show up today. I think he went to Hawaii," she would say later, finally able to smile about it. "It's always good to win when one of your strokes is on vacation."

Her serve was most decidedly on the scene. Wimbledon's official statistics for aces date only to 2000 on all courts, and to 1995 on the show courts, and they show no woman hitting more than 19 in a match until Thursday.

"I wasn't sure if it's Serena or Andy Roddick on the other side," Dementieva said.

Serving for the second set at 6-5, Serena erased four break points—Dementieva blew one with a bad back-

hand—and had four aces in the game, including at 122 mph and 114 mph on the last two points.

There was still nearly an hour left to play, and at the end, Serena barely was better.

"That was intense. I mean, Dementieva was there mentally, physically," said the sisters' mother, Oracene Price, who helps Richard coach their daughters. "Serena was fortunate to get out of that one."

Coming off the court afterward, Serena said, "I'm going to come out and watch Venus and cheer her on and hope for the best."

Alas, she never made it to the Centre Court stands to support big sis. Venus was too dominant, and finished too quickly.

Here is all you need to know: Venus compiled 16 winners, one unforced error.

"She's just too good on grass," Safina said. "She gave me a pretty good lesson today."

Now two sisters who were taught the game by their parents will meet on tennis' most famous lawn one more time to settle a Wimbledon championship.

"We both play such a similar game," said the 29-year-old Venus, who is 15 months older than Serena. "I mean, we had the same teacher."

Serena beat Venus in the 2002-03 all-in-the-family finals at the All England Club; Venus won last year.

"Let's just say," Mom noted, "they take home all the money."

Bee swarm delays Astros' 7-2 win



SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Houston Astros beat San Diego 7-2 in a

National League game delayed for 52 minutes in the top of the ninth inning when a swarm of bees took over part of left field at Petco Park on Thursday.

A beekeeper was called to the downtown ballpark and sprayed a chair and a ballgirl's jacket that had attracted the bees. Padres president Tom Garfinkel said a few thousand bees attached themselves to a queen bee.

Geoff Blum hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs for the Astros.

Mets 9, Pirates 8, 10 innings

At Pittsburgh, Ryan Church singled in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning for New York, which overcame a five-run deficit and then wasted a ninth-inning lead.

Pittsburgh's Adam LaRoche hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth against Francisco Rodriguez (2-2) before the Mets rebounded to win the makeup of a June 3 rainout.

Fernando Tatis hit a two-run homer among his three hits and scored four times as the Mets took an 8-6 lead.

Cubs 9, Brewers 5

At Chicago, Derrek Lee hit a grand slam and a three-run homer for a career-high seven RBIs for the Cubs.

Lee drove his 10th career grand slam off reliever Chris Smith in the fourth after connecting for a three-run shot off starter Seth McClung in the first. Jake Fox and Geovany Soto also had solo shots off McClung, who was making his second start of the season.

Ryan Dempster got his first win since May 30 and improved his career record against the Brewers to 10-3. He gave up four runs—three earned—and eight hits in 6 2-3 innings, including Mike Cameron's 13th homer in the second and Prince Fielder's 21st in the sixth.

Reds 3, Diamondbacks 2, 10 innings

At Cincinnati, Joey Votto singled with the bases loaded and two outs in the 10th inning for Cincinnati.

The Reds loaded the bases with no outs against Clay Zavada (1-2), stringing together a walk and two singles. After two outs, Votto singled past shortstop for his fourth hit of the game.

Arizona starter Doug Davis gave up one run through seven innings. Davis is 0-2 with three no-decisions in his last five starts. He had given up five earned runs in his last four games.

Braves 5, Phillies 2

At Atlanta, Matt Diaz drove in the

go-ahead run with an eighth-inning double and Atlanta complete its first home sweep of Philadelphia in four years.

Diaz had his second straight three-hit game to lift the Braves to their fourth consecutive win and drop the Phillies into a tie with Florida for first place in the NL East.

With the score tied at 2, Brian McCann led off the eighth with a single off Ryan Madson (2-4). Pinch-runner Jair Jurrjens moved to second on a sacrifice and Diaz followed with his hit to the center-field wall. Garret Anderson added his first career pinch-hit homer, a two-run shot off Madson.

Cardinals 5, Giants 2

At St. Louis, Todd Wellemeyer allowed two runs and seven hits in 7 1-3

and Chris Woodward added two RBIs as the Mariners handed CC Sabathia his second loss in 11 starts.

Seattle won in the Bronx for the first time since Sept. 3, 2007, ending a 10-game road losing streak against the Yankees.

Gutierrez had three hits and Brayan launched his 20th homer in the ninth inning, a two-run drive off right-hander Alfredo Aceves that made it 8-4.

Miguel Batista pitched two hitless innings to win in relief of Jason Vargas, who lasted four innings with flu symptoms.

Hideki Matsui homered and drove in three runs for New York, while Robinson Cano had three hits.

Sabathia was pulled with the bases loaded and two outs in the sixth. He allowed six runs and 10 hits, striking out eight.



AP

San Diego Padres left fielder Kyle Blanks stands in a swarm of bees during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Houston Astros, Thursday, July 2, 2009, in San Diego.

White Sox 4, Royals 1

At Kansas City, Mark Buehrle was dominant into the ninth inning, allowing six hits and a run, as Chicago got its sixth straight victory.

Buehrle started the ninth with a four-hit shutout but failed to get his first complete game since May 2, 2008, when Alberto Callaspo doubled and scored on David DeJesus' one-out double.

Bobby Jenks got the last two outs for his 19th save in 21 chances.

Jayson Nix hit a solo homer off Bruce Chen as the Royals lost their sixth in eight games. They have scored only three runs in their last three games, all losses.

Chen went six-plus innings plus two batters and gave up two runs and five hits. He was making his second major league start since undergoing Tommy John surgery in late 2007.

Angels 5, Orioles 2

At Anaheim, California, Bobby Abreu hit two home runs and John Lackey pitched eight solid innings for Los Angeles.

The multihomer game was the 14th of Abreu's career, his first as an Angel.

Both his shots were off Baltimore starter Jeremy Guthrie, who gave up nine hits in seven innings.

Lackey, who had a loss and a no-decision in his last two starts, got the run support he needed this time. He struck out seven and gave up two hits while only walking one.

Luke Scott homered in the seventh for the Orioles, who are 11-24 on the road.

Abreu homered in the fourth and the Angels scored four in the fifth, including Abreu's sixth homer of the season.

Kim sets course record at Congressional with a 62

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Anthony Kim is regaining a lot of his strength and a little of his swagger. He can only hope his record start Thursday at the AT&T National will allow him to get rid of some frustration built up from a year of not winning.

Kim ran off eight birdies over his final 13 holes and set the course record at Congressional with an 8-under 62, giving him a two-shot lead over tournament host Tiger Woods and two others.

The 24-year-old Kim has not won since his victory in the AT&T National last year, slowed by an assortment of injuries that caused his game to slip just as he was being anointed the next great American player.

It was the best round of his PGA Tour career, although Kim walked off the par-5 ninth green slightly perturbed after narrowly missing a 10-foot birdie putt. Apparently, eight birdies wasn't enough.

"You don't have many opportunities to bust a 61," Kim said.

But it was enough to hold off Woods, who missed his tournament last year after having season-ending knee surgery. Woods played in the afternoon with deceptive wind swirling from trees lining the fairways. He missed only two fairways and three greens, and made enough putts for a 64, his lowest round since the 2007 Tour Championship.

"Today was nice to get back inside the ropes and get out there and try to catch AK," Woods said. "He lit it up this morning."

Bryce Molder, who can qualify for the British Open with a strong week at Congressional, hit a 3-wood to 4 feet on the par-3 second hole and escaped trouble a few times on the back nine to join a group at 64 that also included D.A. Points.

Former PGA champion Steve Elkington was another shot back on a day of exceptional scoring in relatively soft conditions from overnight rain in the Washington area.

"You can be so aggressive out there," Woods said. "You can fire at a lot of flags. The fairways got wide because it's not going to run out. If you get aggressive and get it going, you can post a number out there."

Three dozen players shots in the 60s, including Jim Furyk in the group at 66 and U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover at 69. Nearly half the 120-

man field was at par or better.

As a tournament host, Woods took some solace that 3-under 67 was still good enough to be in the top 10. As a player, he saw Kim at 62 before he teed off and realized he had better stay as close as he could.

"This is the day to pull it off," he said, "because the greens are so soft."

Kim extended his bogey-free streak at Congressional to 40 holes, dating to the third round a year ago. He missed only one green, coming up just short on the 18th and chipping to about 3 feet. The longest par putt he faced all day was from 4 feet.

"Whenever you can make a bunch of birdies and not bogeys to follow it up, it's going to be a good day," Kim said. "And fortunately, I kept the ball in play for most of the day and finally got some putts to fall this year."

Even though it's the first week of July, it already feels like a long year to Kim.

He has not finished in the top 10 since his runner-up finish in the season-opening tournament at Kapalua, as he traveled the world while coping with injuries, the latest to his left thumb. He had to regrip the club on his backswing, making him tentative.

But as the strength returned, Kim has been able to set the club properly and swing more explosively through the ball.

As he worked his way along a rail to sign autographs, Fred Funk looked over at Kim and asked him what he shot. Without looking up, Kim casually told him he had a 62.

Sixty-what? Funk said, not believing what he heard. "Where did you cut over?"

There were no shortcuts for Kim, and only limited theatrics. Only two of his birdie putts were tap-in range, as Kim played to spots on the green instead of getting locked in on the flag when it didn't make sense.

Not only is Kim feeling healthy, he is getting stronger. Over the last two months, he has been working intensively with Darby Rich, whom he met at Oklahoma and who recently worked with Blake Griffin as the Sooners' basketball trainer.

"He's really focused, almost obsessed," Rich said of Kim's recent devotion to fitness and diet. "The last couple of days, I feel like I've had to tell him to back off. He's really driven to get back to where he was."



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	48	30	.615	—
New York	45	33	.577	3
Tampa Bay	44	36	.550	5
Toronto	42	38	.525	7
Baltimore	35	43	.449	13

Central Division

Detroit	43	35	.551	—
Chicago	41	38	.519	2 1/2
Minnesota	41	39	.513	3
Kansas City	33	45	.423	10
Cleveland	31	49	.388	13

West Division

Los Angeles	43	34	.558	—
Texas	42	35	.545	1
Seattle	40	38	.513	3 1/2
Oakland	33	44	.429	10

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	39	37	.513	—
Florida	41	39	.513	—
New York	39	39	.500	1
Atlanta	38	40	.487	2
Washington	22	54	.289	17

Central Division

Milwaukee	42	37	.532	—
St. Louis	43	38	.531	—
Cincinnati	39	38	.506	2
Chicago	38	38	.500	2 1/2
Houston	38	39	.494	3
Pittsburgh	36	43	.456	6

West Division

Los Angeles	50	29	.633	—
San Francisco	42	36	.538	7 1/2
Colorado	41	37	.526	8 1/2
San Diego	34	44	.436	15 1/2
Arizona	31	48	.392	19

Yesterday's Games

Seattle 8, N.Y. Yankees 4
Chicago White Sox 4, Kansas City 1
L.A. Angels 5, Baltimore 2
Cincinnati 3, Arizona 2, 10 innings
N.Y. Mets 9, Pittsburgh 8, 10 innings
Houston 7, San Diego 2
Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 2
St. Louis 5, San Francisco 2
Chicago Cubs 9, Milwaukee 5

AT&T NATIONAL SCORES

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP)—Scores Thursday from the AT&T National, a \$6.2 million US PGA Tour event at 7,255-yard, par-60 Congressional Country Club Course:

FIRST ROUND

Anthony Kim	29-33-62
D.A. Points	31-33-64
Bryce Molder	30-34-64
Tiger Woods	31-33-64
Steve Elkington	33-32-65
Daniel Chopra	31-35-66
Jim Furyk	33-33-66
Stuart Appleby	34-32-66
Justin Rose	34-33-67
Boo Weekley	32-35-67
Michael Allen	33-34-67
Rod Pampling	35-32-67
Y.E. Yang	34-33-67
Tim Petrovic	36-32-68
Cameron Beckman	30-38-68
Brandt Snedeker	33-35-68
Bart Bryant	35-33-68
Michael Letzig	33-35-68
Danny Lee	34-34-68
Bo Van Pelt	35-34-69
Kevin Stadler	33-36-69
Ryan Moore	34-35-69
Ryuji Imada	37-32-69
Davis Love III	36-33-69
Sean O'Hair	35-34-69
Joe Ogilvie	35-34-69

Dean Wilson	35-34-69
Troy Matteson	34-35-69
Jeff Quinney	35-34-69
Ryan Palmer	37-32-69
Steve Flesch	35-34-69
Hunter Mahan	34-35-69
Lucas Glover	33-36-69
Tom Pernice, Jr.	34-35-69
Harrison Frazer	34-35-69
Jeff Overton	32-37-69
John Mallingier	34-36-70
Rocco Mediate	32-38-70
George McNeill	35-35-70
Chris DiMarco	34-36-70
Nick Watney	36-34-70
Pat Perez	34-36-70
Cliff Kresge	34-36-70
Kevin Streelman	34-36-70
Brian Davis	35-35-70
Peter Lonard	33-37-70
Martin Laird	36-34-70
Robert Garrigus	36-34-70
Marc Leishman	33-37-70
Chez Reavie	35-35-70
Vijay Singh	35-35-70
Mark Wilson	34-36-70
Ricky Barnes	34-36-70
Notah Begay III	36-34-70
James Driscoll	37-33-70
Matt Bettencourt	35-35-70
Bill Lunde	35-35-70
Jeff Klauk	34-37-71
Fred Funk	37-34-71
Parker McLachlin	33-38-71
Nick O'Hern	37-34-71
Matt Hill	34-37-71
Kevin Na	34-37-71
Nicholas Thompson	36-35-71
Nathan Green	35-36-71
Marc Turnesa	37-34-71
Mike Weir	35-36-71
Charley Hoffman	34-37-71
John Senden	34-37-71
James Nitties	36-35-71
David Mathis	37-34-71
Jeff Maggert	36-36-72
Olin Browne	35-37-72
Jason Dufner	35-37-72
Johnson Wagner	33-39-72
Charles Howell III	35-37-72
Fred Couples	36-36-72
Richard S. Johnson	37-35-72
Corey Pavin	35-37-72
Jason Bohn	36-36-72
Scott McCarron	36-36-72
Aron Price	38-34-72
Robert Allenby	33-39-72
Aaron Baddeley	36-36-72
Eric Axley	36-36-72
Paul Azinger	35-37-72
Brad Adamonis	35-37-72
Chris Riley	35-37-72
Rich Beem	35-37-72
Mathew Goggin	35-37-72
Scott Piercy	35-38-73
Tim Herron	35-38-73
Ted Purdy	39-34-73
Bob Estes	33-40-73
Steve Marino	35-38-73
Alex Cejka	34-39-73
Charles Warren	37-36-73
Charlie Wi	34-39-73
Todd Hamilton	36-37-73
Paul Goydos	36-37-73
Webb Simpson	36-38-74
Steve Lowery	38-36-74
Billy Mayfair	37-37-74
Chris Stroud	35-39-74
Lee Janzen	37-37-74
Brendon de Jonge	34-40-74
Billy Horschel	37-37-74
Paul Casey	36-39-75
Greg Owen	35-40-75
Bill Haas	40-35-75
Vaughn Taylor	41-34-75
Greg Kraft	38-37-75
Jason Gore	38-38-76
Jason Day	39-37-76
J.J. Henry	39-37-76
John Merrick	38-38-76
K.J. Choi	39-38-77
Brett Quigley	40-37-77
Will MacKenzie	37-41-78
Bubba Watson	WD

By The Associated Press

Gin Kings target 2-0 edge



Riding the momentum of a big start, defending champion Barangay Ginebra shoots for a 2-0 lead over San Miguel in their best-of-seven championship series for the Motolite PBA Fiesta Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

While dismissing as “just one game” the Gin Kings’ 102-96 win Wednesday night, Ginebra coach Jong Uichico is looking forward to a repeat victory in the 7 p.m. encounter.

But the Gin Kings can expect a tough stand from the Beermen, who remain the prohibitive favorites after topping the eliminations with a deep, talent-filled lineup many feel could be split into two powerful squads.

And San Miguel, which has not lost two games in a row in the tournament, will be oozing with fight this time after playing with its mind elsewhere in Game 1.

“We just didn’t come mentally prepared,” coach Siot Tanquingcen told sportswriters after Wednesday’s loss.

HEO

From Page 28

4-2 in the second set, and then lost the third set, 6-0.

In their third outing, a fitter and injury-free Heo made sure he will win this time.

“I had an organized set of plans before the match. Every change over, I looked over them and made a recap. I kept everything in and attacked his backhand with heavy topspins,” the 17-year-old netter said.

The victory over Davis moved Heo to the quarterfinals of the Grade 4 event in the Junior ITF calendar. A Grade 4

KENSUKE

From Page 28

a preliminary tournament for Junior Olympics, according to Tsunami Saipan coach and Kensuke’s father, Hiro.

Kensuke will first compete in Western Shizuoka Championships, which is set for July 12. The Shizuoka Junior Championships is scheduled for July 23, while the preliminary Junior Olympics tournament is slated for Aug. 2.

While waiting for these tournaments, Kensuke will train with a junior team.

The Saipan Community School student is grateful for the opportunity to participate in three big tournaments in Japan

A.J. Aguon. Aguon is one of their ‘better’ experienced fighters and will definitely give Folleyang a run for his money,” said Alvarez.

Colt 45 URCC 14: Aggression is set on July 18 at the Philippine capital. At stake in the revised superfight match between Folleyang and Aguon is the Universal Reality Combat Championship Superfight title.

Other matches in the fight

Three more Fil-Ams sign up for PBA draft

MANILA, Philippines—

Two Fil-Am cagers boasting famous relatives and another league MVP have signed up for the PBA Rookie Draft set on Aug. 2.

Chris Ross, the Fil-Am guard who captured the PBL Best Player of the Conference last month, raised the amateur MVP count in the draft pool to three.

Josh Vanlandingham, a great grandson of the only Filipino double Olympic medalist, Teofilo Yldefonso, also signed up for the draft along with Kevin Alapag White, a nephew of Talk ‘N Text guard Jimmy Alapag.

The 6-foot-1 Ross had been described by several PBL

coaches as “quick and creative” and “a warrior” with “a good leaping ability.”

A former standout of Marshall University in Texas, Ross highlighted his stint last conference with a pair of triple-doubles.

Ross, who averaged 13.8 points, 8.3 rebounds, and led the league both in assists at 8.1 and steals at 2.0, also helped Pharex reach the PBL finals for the first time since joining the league two years ago.

Vanlandingham, a 6-foot-3 swingman from Pacific Lutheran University in Washington, also had an impressive run that included a PBL season-high of 32 points.

“Josh is really a very good

shooter,” said coach Egay Macaraya, Vanlandingham’s Licealiz coach.

White, who arrived from Los Angeles, California, also played briefly in the PBL.

PBL Finals MVP winner Chris Timberlake and former UAAP MVP Jervy Cruz of University of Santo Tomas were among the early hopefuls.

Timberlake, a former University of North Florida standout, averaged 11.2 points, 4.3 rebounds, 4 assists and 1.5 blocks in Oracle’s title series against Pharex.

Cruz leads the local aspirants along with La Salle’s athletic big man Rico Maierhofer. **(PDI)**

them (Gin Kings) missing their shots, said Tanquingcen, whose last taste of a championship came while he was Uichico’s assistant at Ginebra in 2006. “They missed shots all right, but they were able to get it back.”

Proof of San Miguel’s lack of focus was the 20 offensive rebounds its beefy and hefty frontline gave up. The Beermen also allowed the Gin Kings to shoot a 40 percent clip from beyond three-point range. **(PDI)**

“I wish I had won that match. I was disappointed I missed that opportunity, but I will play better in my next tournament,” said Heo, who earned two wins in the tournament in Fiji.

Heo defeated Arman Abdollahi of Australia, 6-2, 6-1, in the second round after drawing a bye in the first round. The CNMI netter was seeded No. 11 in the tournament that also featured players from Israel, India, Indonesia, Fiji, and other Pacific island nations.

The series of Junior ITF events in Fiji, New Caledonia, Australia, and South Korea will give Heo ranking points.

Sunday fundraiser for CNMI Team

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan, with the permission of Northern Marianas Swimming Federation, will be holding a fundraiser tomorrow for the CNMI Swimming Team that will compete in the FINA World Championships in Rome later this month.

Tsunami Saipan will have a fundraiser car wash at McDonald’s Middle Road from 9am to 12pm.

Tickets are sold for \$5 each, but any monetary donations are welcome.

Funds that will be raised this Sunday will be used exclusively to purchase technical racing suits and for the team’s other expenses.

PALAXI

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perfight of URCC 14.

“Gio had not been able to train since he got the new job at ARFF a few weeks ago. Not to mention, he will be on probation [at work] for at least three months which translates to him not being able to take leave for the fight,” he said.

In lieu of Sablan, Trench Tech called in a favor to Spike 22 in Guam and the fight club didn’t fail them by agreeing to send one of its more experienced fighters to take on Folleyang in URCC 14.

“With all the uncertainty, URCC requested to find a replacement fighter ASAP. Therefore, I contacted Guam (Spike 22) and they scrambled an alternate in the person of

card are the following:

■ Ultimate Yaw Yan’s Joel Taon vs. Fight Club Bacolod’s Eugene Yunque in the pinweight division (110-119 lbs.);

■ DEFTAC’s Franz Altarejos vs. D’Elements Gym’s Ricardo Labadan in the bantamweight division (130-139 lbs.);

■ Lakay Wushu’s Erwin Focad vs. Elorde MMA’s Lando Espinosa in the flyweight division (120-129 lbs.)

■ CPFC’s Richie Redman vs. Elorde MMA’s Badong Domasian in the lightweight division (150-159 lbs.);

■ Yaw Yan Ardigma’s Eric Kelly vs. Way of the Champions’ Dennis Padua in the featherweight division (140-149 lbs.);

■ DEFTAC’s Reggie Amara vs. Hybrid Yaw Yan’s Raymond Carlos in the flyweight division (120-129 lbs.);

■ Sel Def MMA’s Carry Bullos vs. DEFTAC’s Mike Natividad in the featherweight division (140-149 lbs.);

■ Elorde MMA’s Sugaray Estrada vs. Hybrid Yaw Yan’s Vicente Pajaro in the heavyweight division (208 lbs. and above); and

■ DEFTAC’s Marcus Valda vs. Elorde MMA’s Caloy Badoria in the light heavyweight division (180-189 lbs.).



Artest going to Lakers; Ariza to Rockets?

Ron Artest is joining Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers. "I am very excited to finally be going to L.A.," Artest said in a statement issued by his agent Thursday night.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Bee swarm delays Astros' 7-2 win

The Houston Astros beat San Diego 7-2 in a National League game delayed for 52 minutes in the top of the ninth inning when a swarm of bees took over part of left field at Petco Park on Thursday.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cruz and Camacho lead top performers for June

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jericho Cruz and Connie Camacho's efforts in leading the CNMI Nationals' bid in last week's 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament were recognized during the NMSA monthly meeting as they were named Male and Female Athletes of the Month for June.

Cruz was a consistent scorer for the CNMI Men's Nationals, who played against New Zealand, Guam, Australia, and New Caledonia in the FIBA caging.

Against New Zealand, the Marianas High School graduate tallied 16 points, escaping past taller, but quicker Kiwis en route to several layups.

Cruz's biggest output was against Guam when he tallied 19 points. The CNMI Nationals

even faced eventual gold medalist Australia next and despite

going up against the Aussies' towering frontliners, Cruz still managed to score in double figures with 13 markers.

The CNMI Men's Nationals team member capped his consistent offensive performance with a 14-point production against New Caledonia, which also boasted several tall players, including 6'9" Rodrigue Tetainanuarii.

In four games, Cruz drilled seven triples, recorded 12 rebounds, five assists, eight steals, and three blocks, and went 13-



Cruz



Camacho



Mancao

of-18 from the foul line.

At the end of the tournament, he joined Tetainanuarii, New Zealand's Zachariah Makavilitogia, Guam's Joe Blas, and Australia's Thomas Daly in the FIBA Oceania Men's All-Stars Selection.

Camacho, who is the team captain of the CNMI Women's Nationals, also made it to the FIBA Oceania Women's All-Stars Selection.

The Hopwood Junior High School teacher was the top scorer for CNMI in all four games. She posted 24 points

against Guam, 12 against New Caledonia, 16 against New Zealand, and 10 against Australia for an average of 15.5 points. Camacho connected on eight triples and 14 free throws and had five assists, eight steals, and nine rebounds.

Joining Camacho in the FIBA Oceania Women's All-Stars Selection were New Caledonia's Myriam Fenuafanote, New Zealand's Zoe Kensington, Guam's Derin Santos, and Australia's Caitlin Rowe.

Besides the two CNMI basketball players, NMSA in its

monthly meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium also cited Mathew Mancao.

Mancao was named Male Student Athlete of the Month for making it to the Top 3 of the 16th Annual Thomas Picarro Fun Run.

Mancao, who graduated from MHS last month, finished third behind Silver Streak winner Jack Kabiriel (26:21) and runner-up Ronald Villafria (27:06) with the Dolphins' middle distance runner completing the race in 27 minutes and 14 seconds.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ji Hoon Heo, seen here waiting for Kirk Schuler's serve during their finals game in a local tournament early this year at the PIC hard court, made it to the quarterfinals of the Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships 2009 in Lautoka, Fiji after beating his New Zealand rival.

Heo avenges losses to Kiwi rival

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo ended his losing skid against New Zealand's Ari Davis after cruising to a straight sets win in their Round of 16 game in the Air Pacific South

Pacific Open Junior Championships 2009 in Lautoka, Fiji. The CNMI bet notched a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Davis

last Wednesday at the Goodman Fielder Tennis Centre to avenge his two losses against the Kiwi player.

Heo was nursing injuries when he dropped his first two matches against Davis. The first time they met late last year, he

had an ankle problem and in February this year he cramped up when he was ahead, 6-3,

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Kensuke to compete in 3 tournaments in Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Kensuke Kimura will leave the CNMI on Wednesday to train with a Japan junior team and compete in three tournaments there.

Kimura will be participating in the Western Shizuoka Championships, Shizuoka Junior Championships and

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura, seen here competing in the 100m freestyle event in a tournament at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi early this year, will be leaving for Japan this Wednesday to compete in three junior tournaments.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

TRENCH TECH

Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan has pulled out of Colt 45 URCC 14: Aggression set later this month after the Trench Tech fighter was accepted to the local Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting unit.

This was confirmed recently by Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez, who said that because of Sablan's job commitment his ward will not challenge one-time Saipan visitor Edward "Landslide" Folayang in the su

See PALAXI on Page 27



MARK RABAGO

Referee Tony D'Angelo raises the arm of Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan after his win in Rites of Passage 7: Fists of Fury last May 23.